



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS

Robinson Nature Center
6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter
410-313-0400



Lil' Nature Adventure: Little Fawn Goes Home (Ages 2-4 yrs) –

Teacher Pre-visit Activity

Concepts

Just like people, all animals need a home. An animal's home is not only important, but necessary for an animal's survival. A home provides shelter from weather, predators, and a place to rest. Some animals build nests, others make burrows, while others have their homes in the hole of a tree. Students will explore the reasons that animals and humans depend on a home for survival. Students will also recognize that an animal's home is part of their habitat.

Program Activities

This field trip begins with movement activities to help students understand that just like us, all animals need a home. Students learn the many roles that our homes have. Next, students act like various animals as they move from habitat to habitat to find their suitable home. Next, students view a puppet show about a young deer that is searching for his home. After the show, children meet a live animal. Following the show, children head outside for a short nature walk that highlights animals, their homes and their habitats.

Pre-visit Suggestions

Discuss the ways students use their homes.
Make a list of things that students do in their home.
Read *Backyard Habitats* by [Kelley Macaulay](#).

Vocabulary

Habitat: a place that provides food, water, and shelter for plants and animals.

Shelter: a place that provides protection from predators, weather, or a place to raise young.

Home: a place where one lives permanently, especially as a member of a family or household.



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Teacher Post-visit Information

Dear Teacher,

We hope you enjoyed your recent field trip to the Robinson Nature Center. To help with follow-up in the classroom, we have developed the following post-visit materials:

- 1) Follow-up discussion
- 2) Follow-up activities

Follow-up Discussion

- 1) Review the difference between tame and wild animals
 - a. A tame animal (pet or farm) depends on people for food, water and shelter
 - b. A wild animal must find its own food, shelter and water to survive
- 2) Review the things that animals need to survive
 - a. food
 - b. water
 - c. shelter
 - d. space
- 3) Review where animals find food, water, and shelter.
 - a. In a habitat
- 4) Review the three habitats we visited and animals who live there.
 - a. Garden – bird, bees, butterflies, worms, beetles
 - b. Forest – deer, fox, woodpeckers, snakes, insects
 - c. Stream – frogs, fish, crayfish
- 5) Review what our homes do for us.
 - a. Roof – keeps us dry, shelter
 - b. Kitchen – provides food
 - c. Door and lock – keeps us safe
 - d. Fireplace/air conditioning/ window – keeps us a comfortable temperature
 - e. Bedroom – sleeping
 - f. Nursery – place for babies
 - g. And more!



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Follow-up Activity

Habitat Collages – Use magazine pictures to create a large wildlife collage in the classroom. Have each student look for, cut out, and paste animal pictures onto the collage. They should also include food, water and shelter in their collage.

Every animal needs a home! The scientific term for an animal's home is "habitat." An animal's habitat includes food, water, shelter or cover, and space. An animal's shelter might be underground, in a bush, in the bark of a tree, or in some rocks.

Ask the students to draw a floor plan of where they live. A floor plan will include the things the students need in their home – a place to cook and keep food, a place to sleep, and a source of water.

Once the drawings are finished, have them share their drawings. Ask the students how their drawings are similar to animals' homes. Ask students to close their eyes and imagine a bird's home, an ant's home, and a beaver's home. Discuss the similarities and differences among the different homes with students.

Have the students identify the components every animal needs in its home – food, water, shelter, and space in which to live – arranged in a way so the animal can survive. Emphasize that although the homes are different, every animal needs a home.

Take the students outside to look for animal home.