

Animal Worksheet

Objective: Students investigate animal habitats and their diets by matching animal pictures to pictures of the food the animals eat and the places they live. The students also begin to develop an understanding of predator – prey relationships.

Materials: Copies of the worksheets, green and red construction paper, scissors, glue

Background: Some animals eat only plants while others eat only other animals and still others eat both plants and animals. Animals that eat only plants are called herbivores; animals that eat both plants and animals are omnivores; and carnivores are animals that eat meat. Note: The information from this activity is used later with the post visit activity – **Animal Connections Game**.

Procedure: Make enough copies of the worksheet for all the students. Have the students match the pictures of the animals to the places where they live and things they eat.

Have the students select an animal from the worksheet and study what that animal eats, where it lives, and what it has in common with other animals. Try to make certain that the children select animals from all groups (plant eaters, meat eaters and animals that eat anything). Discuss with the students the words that describe what an animal eats: herbivore (plant eater), omnivore (eats both plants and animals), and carnivore (meat eater).

Have the students cut out their animal picture and paste it to color coded construction paper: green for plant eaters – herbivore, red for meat eaters – carnivore, and both for an animal that eats both – omnivore.

Discuss with the children that most students are omnivores – they eat both meat and plants (vegetables). However, some of the children in your classroom might be vegetarians, or herbivores. Talk with the class and discuss the diversity in your classroom – what are the food preferences in your class. Discuss why that diversity makes the animal kingdom stronger. Don't forget include insects in your discussion. They too fit into these classifications. This diversity in food needs is an important part of biodiversity.

Note: These colored tags are used in the post-visit activity **Animal Connections Game**.

Extension: Have the students gather in groups of herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores. Have the groups discuss what the animal they selected eats and what it has in common with other animals. Have them present their information to the classroom. Discuss the similarities within the groups and differences between the groups.

