

Family Activity: 5 to Stay Alive

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An activity for all ages

Every living species requires 5 things to survive: food, water, air, shelter, and space. An area where an organism finds these five things is called a habitat. Habitat is another word for a home for animals. Each type of animal needs a precise type of habitat to meet its specific needs.

Procedure: Today you will take a walk in nature to look for suitable habitats for the animals listed below. You may assume air* is all around us and so it is available for the animals as well. However, you may have to look harder for the other components of a suitable habitat!

Species	Needs	Food	Shelter	Water	Space	Good habitat? Y or N
Eastern painted turtle	Eats crayfish, basks on logs, lives in lakes					
Bluebird	Eats ground insects, spiders, and fruits, lives in meadows					
Wild turkey	Eats acorns, nuts, fern fronds, ground insects, roosts in trees, shrub piles, and clearings					
Bat	Eats night-active insects, aquatic insects, needs loose tree bark, tree cavities, bridges, and buildings					
Butterfly	Eats nettles, sap, animal droppings, needs leaves, puddles, and open areas near forest					
Owl	Eats songbirds and rodents, lives in tree-dominated areas and tree hollows					
Bald eagle	Eats fish, turtles, waterfowl, needs tall trees and wide open water areas					
Salamander	Eats mites, centipedes, millipedes, needs deep leaves and rotting logs					
Wood duck	Eats insects, seeds, fruits, needs large trees with caities, diverse habitat with trees, shrubs, aquatic plants, and open water					
Dragonfly	Eats many insect species, lives anywhere near water					
Red fox	Eats rodents, rabbits, small birds, fruit, eggs, insects, lives in forests, fields, prefers forest edges and mixed vegetation					
Bumblebee	Eats nectar from flowers, nests below ground, under logs					

^{*}What is the different between air and space? Space means having enough room to live without competition and air is what we breathe.