

HOME SWEET HOME

Purpose:

This lesson provides students with an opportunity to learn about the different habitats, and survival needs of aquatic animals, through observation, drawing and writing.

Curriculum Match:

For Curriculum Match visit:

<http://www.vanaqua.org/education/LearningOutcomesandIRPCConnections.pdf>

- Direct experience is the basis of human learning
- Students should be provided opportunities to develop an aesthetic appreciation of the environment

(Taken from Appendix C: Cross – Curricular Outcomes)

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Drawing materials
- Clipboard or binder (hard surface to write on)

Background Preparation:

Before your trip to the Vancouver Aquarium, talk to the students about habitat. What makes a habitat a habitat? Discuss the difference between a home and a habitat. Example, your house is your home; it is the shelter you need in your habitat. Your habitat is the area or the space you live, in our case our city, or our neighborhoods. Get the kids to draw pictures of their habitat, including what they need to live (water, food, and shelter). What kind of environment are their habitats in? (Is it near the ocean, in a desert, in a forest?) What are their homes made of? What is in their homes that make them special? Where do they get their food? What other things do they need to live?

Procedure at the Aquarium:

Carefully explore the Aquarium and choose an animal to observe. On a piece of paper, draw a full-page picture of your animal. What body parts help it get the things it needs to survive? What behaviors help it survive? On another piece of paper, make a list of all the basic things your animal needs to survive.

Next, on a new piece of paper, draw your animal in its habitat. What kind of shelter does it need in order to survive? Does your animal have adaptations on its body that helps provide shelter? What does your animal eat and how does it catch its food? How does it move? How does it protect itself? How do humans impact this animal's habitat? What can you do to help protect this animal?

If time permits, choose a second animal, and compare and contrast the two animals and their habitats. Could they live in each other's habitat? Why or why not?

Extensions:

There are a number of things that can be done back at school to compliment this activity, here are just a few:

- Compare and contrast the animals habitat with the students habitat (completed at school)
- Build a diorama of the animal and its habitat
- Make a collage or mural of the different animals and their habitats
- Incorporate drama; have the students become their animal doing the things they need to do to survive in their habitat
- Invent a new animal that could survive in your current animals habitat

Assessment:

Use an observation sheet to assess students as they work; showing evidence that they:

- Follow directions
- Identify a specific habitat for animal chosen and a list of survival needs
- Are able to notice and explain similarities and differences in animal and personal habitat