

Materials You'll Need:

- Construction paper (brown, green, blue, gray)
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Child-safe scissors
- Glue stick or tape
- Pictures of various animals (optional, can draw instead)
- Small natural items like twigs, dry grass, or leaves (optional, gather safely!)
- A small box like a shoebox (optional)

Welcome Home, Animals!

Hi there, Super Scientist! Just like we have homes to keep us safe and cozy, animals do too! Today, we're going on an adventure to explore the amazing world of animal homes, also called habitats.

Why do animals need homes?

- **Safety:** To hide from predators (other animals that might want to eat them).
- **Shelter:** To stay warm/cool and dry from rain, snow, or hot sun.
- **Raising Babies:** A safe place to lay eggs or raise their young.

Let's Explore Different Homes!

- **Nests:** Who lives in a nest? Birds! They use twigs, grass, mud, and even spiderwebs to build cozy cups high in trees or sometimes on the ground. Can you pretend to build a nest with your hands?
- **Burrows:** Dig, dig, dig! Animals like rabbits, prairie dogs, and foxes dig tunnels and holes underground. This keeps them safe and hidden. Let's draw a rabbit popping out of its burrow!
- **Dens:** Bears, wolves, and sometimes foxes find or make dens. These can be caves, hollow logs, or spaces under rocks. They are often used for sleeping, especially during winter hibernation for bears! Draw a cozy bear den.
- **Shells:** Some animals carry their homes on their backs! Snails and turtles have hard shells for protection. Can you find something around you that is hard like a shell?
- **Hives/Colonies:** Busy bees live together in hives, often made of wax. Ants live in underground colonies with many tunnels and rooms. Teamwork!

Activity 1: Match Up!

Let's draw! On pieces of paper, draw these animals: Bird, Rabbit, Bear, Snail, Bee. On other pieces, draw their homes: Nest, Burrow, Den, Shell, Hive. Now, mix them up and match the animal to its correct home!

Activity 2: Build a Home!

Let's get creative! Choose an animal and build its home.

- **Option A (Nest):** Use a small box or just construction paper. Glue on twigs, grass, or cut-up paper strips to make a bird's nest.
- **Option B (Burrow):** Draw a scene underground on dark paper, showing the tunnels of a burrow.
- **Option C (Den):** Use construction paper to make a cave shape or decorate a small box to look like a den.

Wrap Up:

Wow, you learned so much about where animals live! Can you tell me one animal and the name of its home? Why is that home important for the animal? Great job exploring today!