

# Using Nature to Meet Educational Standards

## **SCIENCE**

### **First Grade**

#### Activity #1:

Materials: data sheet (one per person), pencil/pen

What is a habitat? What things are included in a habitat? Do all animals have a habitat?

All animals - big and small - have a habitat which includes food, water, shelter, and space. These four things must also be in the proper arrangement for the animal to survive (if the food of a squirrel is a mile from its water, and its shelter is 1 mile in the other direction, this will not work!).

Head outside and look for animals using the outdoor classroom or school grounds. Although you can work in groups, you should find a different animal for each person. Look for large animals - squirrel, rabbits, birds - and small animals - roly-polly bug, spider, worm, insect, etc. When you find an animal, record it on your data sheet.

Next, look for a source of food for your animal. What would your animal eat? When you find it, record it on your data sheet.

Then, keep looking for a source of water for your animal. When you find it, record it on your data sheet.

And, finally, look for a shelter for your animal. This may not be a build home or nest, but rather a safe spot hidden from predators. When you find this, record it on your data sheet.

#### Activity #2:

Materials: shovel or trowel, piece of paper, pencil/pen.

What kinds of animals live in the soil? Worms! Moles! Badgers! Can you think of any other animals which call soil home?

Head outside with a small shovel or trowel. Slowly move the mulch aside. Do you see any animals scurrying away? Try looking in the mulch out in the sun and again in the mulch under a bush or in the shade. Do you see anything?

Now, start digging SLOWLY into the soil... you do not need to dig down very deep. What do you see now. If you don't see anything, try digging in another place.

Record what you find on a sheet of paper... be sure to record everything as we will use this data later.

# Habitat Data Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your animal: \_\_\_\_\_

## Food

What kind of food would your animal eat?

\_\_\_\_\_

Where did you find your animal's source of food?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Shelter

What kind of shelter would your animal prefer? A nest? A hole? In the mulch?

\_\_\_\_\_

Where would your animal find its preferred shelter?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Water

Where would your animal find water?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

