Animal Habitats

Badge Overview
Find out more about where animals live, how they play, and how humans can help them. When you've earned this badge, you will know more about wild animals and how to protect their homes.

Badge Components

1. Find out about wild animals
Go to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website and choose three animals that you would like to learn more about. Complete an Animal Research Report for each of them. (See printable Animal Research Report PDF).

2. Investigate an animal habitat
Make a cootie catcher/paper fortune teller using this tutorial – you only need to watch the first 1 minute of the video (we are going to do something a little different at this point).
   - On the side with squares, number each square 1 to 4. Turn it over and on the other side choose 8 habitats and write them on each of the 8 triangles. You can find information on habitats on this website. You could even add some drawings to make it more interesting and fun! Under each of the flaps you can either write the name, or draw a picture of an animal from that habitat. Just below the flap write an interesting fact about the animal e.g. What it eats? What predators it has? How many eggs it lays at one time? Now you can go and share these interesting facts with everyone in your house!!

3. Create an animal house
Make one of these habitats for the insects that live in your neighborhood.
   - Mini-beast habitat for solitary bees, beetles, spiders and ladybugs.
     You will need some string or a tube to hold everything together e.g. a short drainpipe, cleaned paint can, mason jar or empty jelly jar and straws or bamboo canes. Put all the straws or bamboo canes into the tube and make them all the same length or if you don't have a tube, tie them all together with the string. Hang your insect habitat in a bush or tree outside, or you could even hang it from your balcony.
   - Green Lacewing habitat.
     You will need a plastic bottle with the top still on and a cardboard box. Cut the bottom off the bottle (get help with this so you don't hurt yourself). Cut the box into strips about 2" shorter than your bottle, then roll the strips up and put them into the bottle. Hang your insect habitat in a bush or tree outside or you could even hang it from your balcony. Lacewings are attracted to house lights so somewhere near your home would be perfect!

4. Explore endangered habitats
   - Do some research on endangered habitats on the World Wildlife Fund website.

5. Help protect animal habitats
   - Use the information in the ‘Why they matter’ section to make a beautiful poster explaining why one of these habitats is important to us.

Materials
- 3 copies of the Animal Research Report PDF
- Paper
- Markers or crayons
- String
- Mini-beast Habitat
  - String or tube
  - Straws or bamboo canes
- OR
- Green lacewing habitat
  - plastic bottle
  - cardboard box

Florida Educational Standards
The content of all Girl Scout national proficiency Badges and Journeys have been correlated by grade level to national and state learning objectives. Click here for more information on how Girl Scout Badge-work supports Florida’s educational standards.

Questions? Contact customercare@gssef.org