

## 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

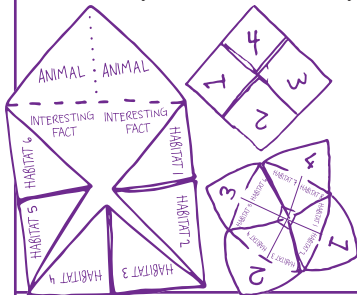
### 1. Find out about wild animals

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!!



How to play with the cootie catcher/fortune teller:

Put your index finger and thumb from each hand in the flap under the numbers and squeeze them together to make the 4 corners meet in the middle. Get another person to choose 1, 2, 3 or 4. You will say the letters of the word while you open and close the cootie catcher; first move your hands apart to open it and then bring them back into the middle to close it and then move both your index fingers one way and your thumbs the other to open it, do this for each letter of the number they selected e.g. t.h.r.e.e, you will do it 5 times. Get the other person to choose a habitat and then you can tell them about an animal that lives there!!!

### 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.

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