

Lesson 3: Guide to Animal Habitats (2 Days)

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- What makes an environment safe and healthy?
- What do habitats provide for the plants and animals that live in them?
- What do plants and animals need to live and grow in their habitats?



Facts and Definitions

- A **habitat** is the environment where plants and animals live and grow.
- Wetlands, grasslands, woodlands, and deserts are types of habitats.

⦿ Skills

- Listen to and answer questions about text read orally (LA)
- Identify the title, author's name, and illustrator's name on a book (LA)
- Connect literature to prior knowledge or experience (LA)
- Make predictions about a story (LA)
- Identify the sequence of events in a story (LA)
- Sequence events in the correct order (LA)
- Classify plants, animals, and insects (S and M)

✂ Materials

- | | |
|---|---|
| • <i>Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing Animal Habitats</i>
by Jim Arnosky | • green bag (kit) |
| • black marker | • instruction page (kit) |
| • colored pencils or markers | • materials will vary based on the craft your child chooses |
| • crayons or colored pencils | • poster board* (Activity 2 - Option 2) |
| • crayons, colored pencils, or markers | • scissors |
| • glue | • scissors* (Activity 4 - Option 1) |
| • glue* (Activity 4 - Option 1) | |

Introduction

Review the definition of the word "environment" with your child (the things and people that surround us where we live). Ask her if she can describe the environment in which she lives. Explain to your child that animals also live in particular environments, often called **habitats**. Tell her that habitats provide animals with everything they need to live and grow, just like your child's home environment provides for her needs. Introduce the idea that there are many different kinds of habitats in the world but that today you will be reading a book about just a few different types.

Show your child the cover of the book *Crinkleroot's Guide to Animal Habitats* and ask her the following questions:

1. Can you point to the title of the book?
2. What letters do you recognize in the title? (Read the title to her or let her attempt to read it.)

3. Do you see the author's name?
4. What letters do you recognize in the author's name? (Read her the author's name or let her attempt to read it.)
5. What do you think this book is about?
6. Who do you think this man is? (Point to Crinkleroot, who is driving the Jeep.)
7. What do you think he will do in the story?

Activities

Activity 1: Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing Animal Habitats

Explain to your child that this story explores different animal habitats. Read the story aloud to your child. As you are reading to her about each habitat, stop and ask her to point out the animals and plants that are living in the habitat. You can also ask her to count how many animals she can find in each habitat.

Activity 2: Habitat Journey

Select which "Habitat Journey" activity you want your child to complete. Option 2 is more advanced.

Option 1

Give your child the "Habitat Journey" (Option 1) sheet. On this sheet there are four boxes with habitats in them. Your child will cut them apart and then paste them in the order in which Crinkleroot explored them in the book. Allow her to use the book if she can't remember the order.

Option 2 (Advanced)

Give your child the "Habitat Journey" (Option 2) sheet, and ask her to draw a line from Crinkleroot's Jeep to the habitats he visited, in the order he visited them. Your child can look through the book as she charts Crinkleroot's course.

Extension Activity: Animal Craft

Use the directions on the "Bullfrog Paper Puppet Instructions" page in your kit to create a craft based on one of the animals in the book.

Activity 3: Number Writing

Practice writing numbers (0-6) on the page provided. If your child has already mastered writing these numbers, let her practice writing the names of the numbers instead.

Day 2

Activity 4: Sorting Plants, Animals, and Insects

Explain to your child that animal habitats contain plants, animals, and insects. Many animals need the plants, insects, and other animals in the habitat for food. A healthy habitat provides the inhabitants with everything they need to live and grow.

The purpose of this lesson is to teach children to identify and sort by attributes or characteristics. If your child is more advanced, you may discuss that insects are a type of animal — along with fish, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

Most students are not ready to distinguish between vertebrates and insects at this point, and more scientific animal groupings will be covered in the next level of Moving Beyond the Page.

Select which option of this activity you want your child to complete.

Option 1

Give your child the "Sorting Plants, Animals, and Insects" pages (Option 1 and Both Options). Your child can cut the pictures apart and place them in the appropriate circles.

Option 2 (Advanced)

Give your child the page "Sorting Plants, Animals, and Insects" (Both Options). This page has three circles: one for plants, one for animals, and one for insects. She can use the book to identify plants, animals, and insects and then draw and label three of each in the circles provided.

Note: If your child is already familiar with the scientific classifications of animals (mammals, etc.), you can encourage her to sort the items into more specific groups. Draw a large circle on a sheet of paper and label it "Plants." Then draw a second large circle on a sheet of paper labeled "Animals." Within this large circle, you can draw and label smaller circles for insects, birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

Activity 5: Choosing a Habitat

Ask your child to think about the animal habitats that Crinkleroot explored in the story. Ask her which one she would most like to visit. Then ask her to carefully examine the pages that illustrate the habitat she has chosen. Finally, ask her to either draw her own picture of the habitat or tell a story about what it would be like to visit the habitat. If she chooses to draw a picture, ask the following questions once she has completed her drawing. (Save the picture for Lesson 5.) If she chooses the story, you may ask the questions either as prompts for the story or at the story's conclusion:

1. What do you see in the habitat?
2. What would it feel like in the habitat? (hot, cool, wet)
3. What would you do in the habitat if you could visit it?
4. Which animals would you be most interested in seeing? Why?
5. Would you want to live in the habitat? Why or why not?

Activity 6: Habitat Art

Ask your child to pick her favorite habitat from the book. Have her find an animal that she really likes that lives in that habitat. Encourage her to draw a picture of the animal or go online with your child and try to locate a craft for the animal. Just type in the animal's name followed by the word "craft" in your search engine. If your child finds a craft she wants to do, you may need to help her locate the materials needed.

Wrapping Up

Sing the following song about habitats with your child.

The Habitat Song

(to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Plants, insects, and animals
Live in habitats
Everything they need to live
And grow — Imagine that!

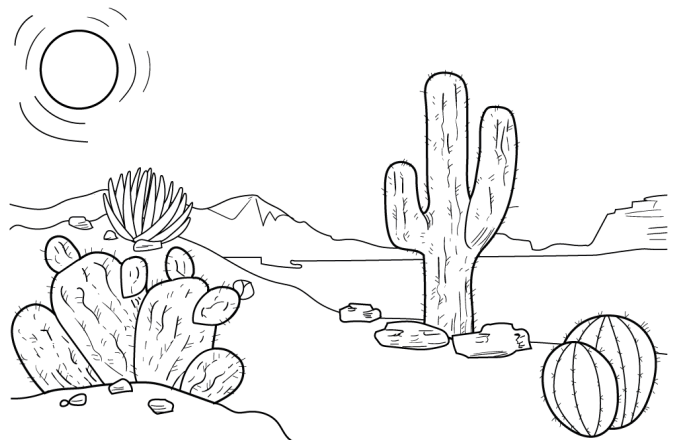
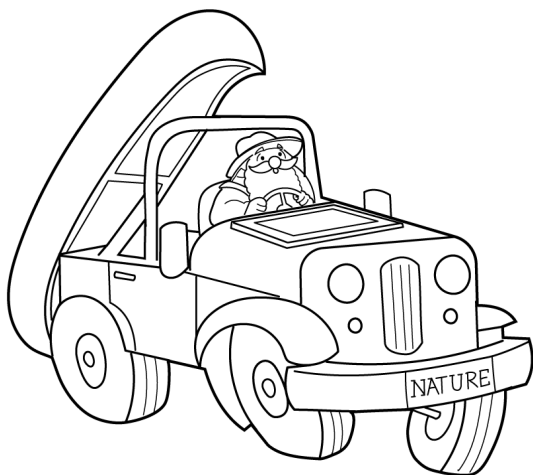
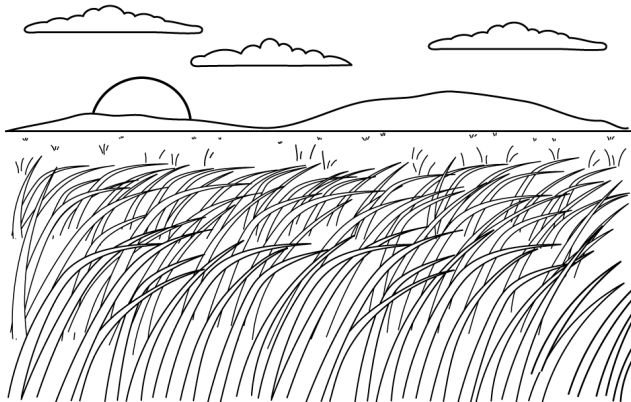
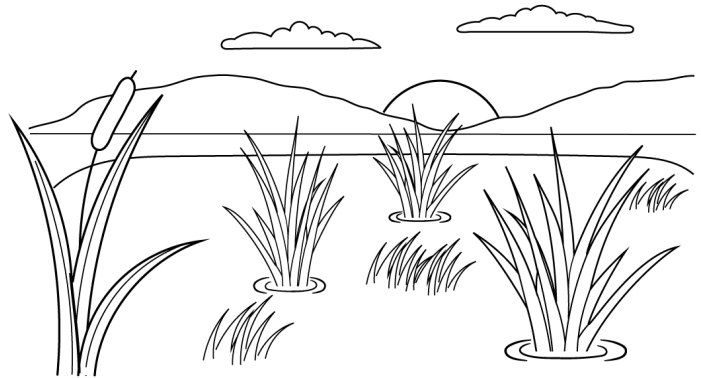
Habitat Journey

Directions: Crinkleroot visited four habitats. Cut them apart and put them in order in which he visited them.

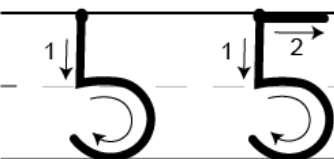
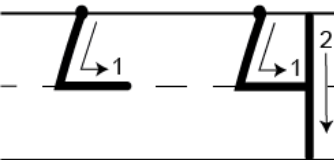
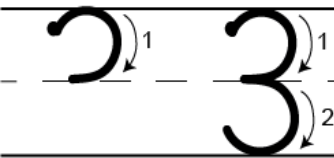
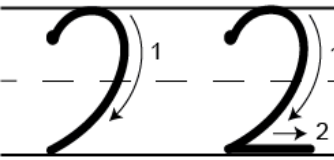
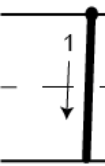
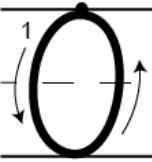


Habitat Journey

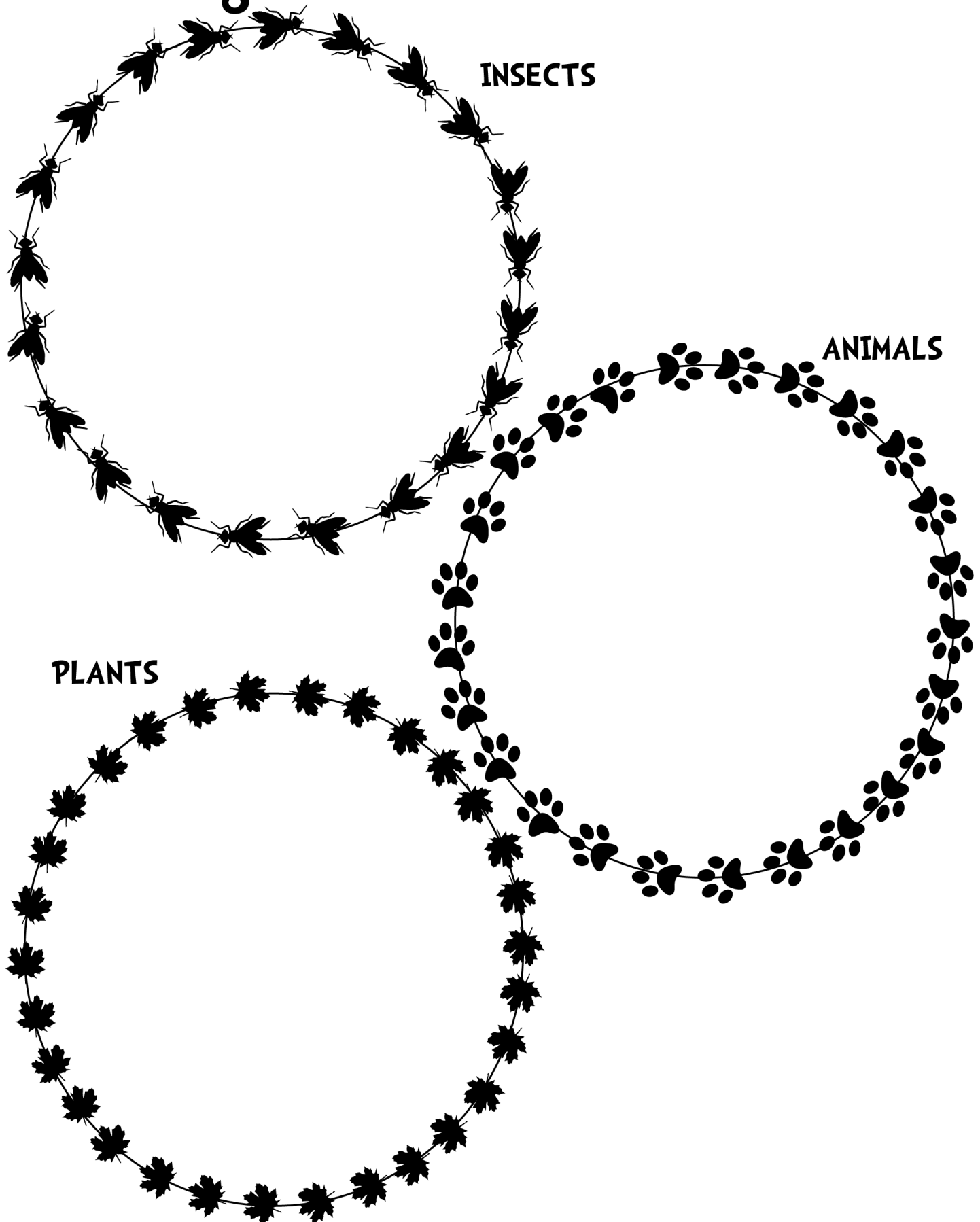
Directions: Chart Crinkleroot's course from the Jeep through the habitats in the order in which they were visited.



Number Writing



Sorting Plants, Animals, and Insects



Sorting Plants, Animals, and Insects

