

Lesson 5: Discovering Animal Habitats (2 Days)

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- What makes an environment safe and healthy?
- What do habitats provide for the humans, animals, and plants that live in them?

📖 Facts and Definitions

- A **graph** is a picture that shows us how much of something there is and/or shows patterns.
- A **pictorial graph** uses pictures to show how many objects are in a group.

🕒 Skills

- Recognize and describe a variety of habitats (S and SS)
- Count objects in a set and record the number (M)
- Create a pictorial graph (M)
- Identify beginning letters and sounds in words (LA)

✂ Materials

- *Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing Animal Habitats* by Jim Arnosky
- animal crackers
- blank paper
- books with pictures of animal habitats
- crayons or colored pencils
- glue* (Activity 5 - Option 1)
- scissors* (Activity 5 - Option 1)

Introduction

Ask your child to give you some examples of the animal habitats she explored in *Crinkleroot's Guide to Animal Habitats*.

Review the idea that an animal habitat is the environment in which an animal lives and grows, just like your child's home is her environment. Explain that there are many different habitats, and today you will look at some very interesting animal habitats around the world.

Activities

Activity 1: Identifying Habitats

For this activity, choose an option for your child to complete. Option 2 is a more challenging version of the activity that requires more reading and more detailed coloring.

Whichever option you choose, tell your child that she will be exploring the following six habitats:

- forest (a type of woodlands habitat)
- ocean (an aquatic or underwater habitat)
- rainforest (a woodland habitat)
- polar (a very cold drylands habitat found near the North and South Poles)
- savanna (a type of grasslands habitat)
- desert (a drylands habitat)

Option 1

Using the "Identifying Habitats" (Option 1) page, show your child the words and pictures for the six habitats. Ask your child to add the first and last letter for each habitat and to attempt to read/sound out the word. As you look at the pictures and words, discuss what you see. Ask her to identify and describe the animals found in the habitats and other animals that could be found there. Then encourage her to draw an additional animal in each habitat and to color the habitats and animals.

Option 2

Using the "Identifying Habitats" (Option 2) page, show your child the word box with the six habitats. Ask her to read the names of the habitats listed in the box and then to label the habitats on the page. As she looks at the pictures and words, discuss what she sees. Ask her to describe the animals in the pictures and other animals that could be found in the habitats. Encourage her to draw one animal of her own in each habitat.

Then ask her to color the insects green, the mammals brown, the reptiles and amphibians green, the fish blue, and the birds red.

Activity 2: Exploring Habitats

Ask your child the following questions:

1. Do you know what we call the habitat where deer, bears, and foxes live? You can find a lot of trees in this habitat. (forest or woods)
2. What is the name of the habitat where we find fish, squid, and dolphins? (ocean or aquatic -- explain to your child that scientists use the word "aquatic" to refer to habitats under the water.)
3. Do you know where we find iguanas, jackrabbits, and cacti? It is very hot and dry in this habitat. (desert)
4. Where could we find tigers, monkeys, and parrots? (jungle or rainforest)
5. In which type of habitat would you find polar bears and walruses? This habitat is very cold. (polar)
6. Do you know what we call the habitat where elephants, zebras, and giraffes live? (savanna)

Next, find pictures of each habitat for your child to explore. Look at the plants, animals, and natural resources found in each habitat. You can use picture books, websites, or other resources to help your child become more familiar with the habitats. The following websites are a good starting place.



National Geographic

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11075/

This site features \ various habitats. Click on one of the habitats and scroll through the slideshow to view some animals that live in that habitat. Read the caption under each picture to identify the animals shown.



Habitats for Kids | Learn all about deserts, forests, grasslands, mountains, and more

www.beyondthepage.com/link/12628/



Habitat Matching Game

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11073/

Activity 3: Animals' Needs

Locate your child's habitat picture from Lesson 3, if she drew one. If your child told a story, ask her to draw a picture of her favorite animal habitat on a blank sheet of paper.

Discuss the animals that can be found in the habitat. Then ask your child how the animals' needs are met. What do the animals eat? What is their source of water? Encourage your child to add pictures that show what the animals eat and drink in their habitat. Label your child's animals and their food and water sources.

Activity 4: Handwriting

On the sheet provided, practice the letter *Jj* and the words *jungle* and *Jeep*. Your child can use the "j" words in her own sentences or copy sentences that contain the "j" words.

Day 2

Activity 5: Let's Create a Habitat

Explain to your child that every habitat has its own unique plants, insects, and animals. For this activity your child will explore four different habitats. Option 2 is more challenging because it requires your child draw an appropriate habitat, rather than cutting and pasting the habitats as found in Option 1. Select an option for your child to complete.

Option 1

Give your child the "Let's Create a Habitat" (Option 1) page. On this page, your child will find four different habitats (ocean, rainforest, polar, and forest). The "What Habitat Am I From?" page contains a number of different animals and plants found in those habitats. Ask your child to cut out the pictures and place them in the correct habitat.

Option 2 (Advanced)

Give your child the "Let's Create a Habitat" (Option 2) page. On this page, your child will find four pictures, each with a different animal. Ask her to draw an appropriate habitat surrounding each animal in the space provided and to label each habitat. Your child can refer to books or websites to search for ideas.

Activity 6: Animal Habitat Graph

Explain to your child that a **graph** is a picture that shows us how much of something there is; graphs can also show patterns. A **pictorial graph** uses pictures to show us how many things belong in a certain group. For example, you can make a graph of jellybeans that shows how many are red, green, and yellow.

Give your child a small box of animal crackers (about 10-12) and the "Animal Habitat Graph" sheet. The habitats are listed on the bottom of the graph (the x axis). The vertical side of the graph (the y axis) shows numbers. Show your child the title and explain the labels on the x and y axes.

Your child will place each animal cracker in the column corresponding to the habitat in which the animal could be found. If your child does not know which habitat an animal can be found in, look for information

about the animal online. After your child has completed the graph, ask her the following questions:

1. How many animals were in the rainforest? Savanna? Etc.
2. Which habitat had the most crackers?
3. Which habitat had the fewest?
4. Did any habitats have the same number of animals?

When you are finished, you and your child can eat your favorite animal crackers.

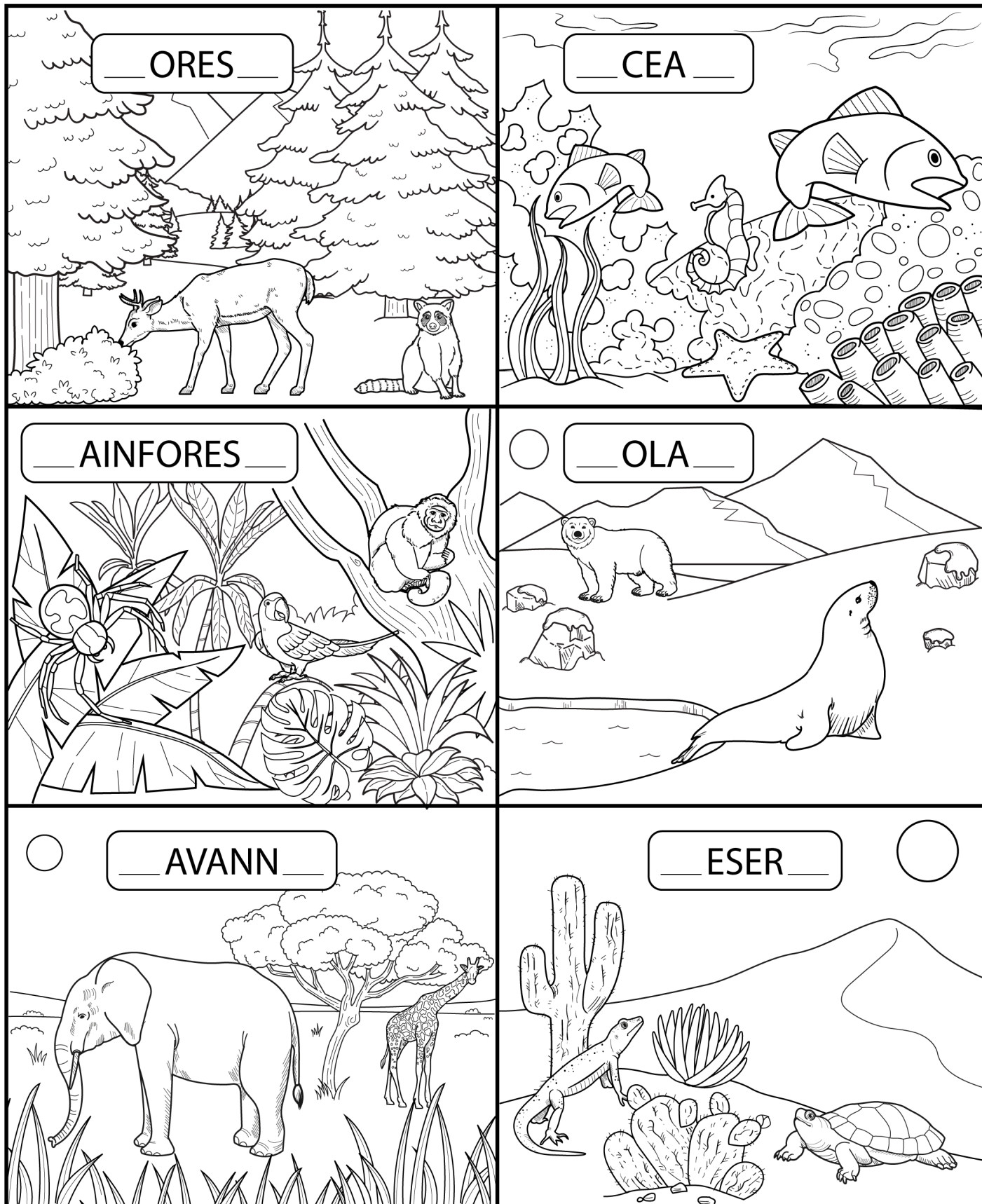
Wrapping Up

Review the idea that animals live in environments called habitats and that an animal's habitat provides it with everything it needs to live and grow. Ask your child to describe each environment she explored during today's lesson.

Life Application

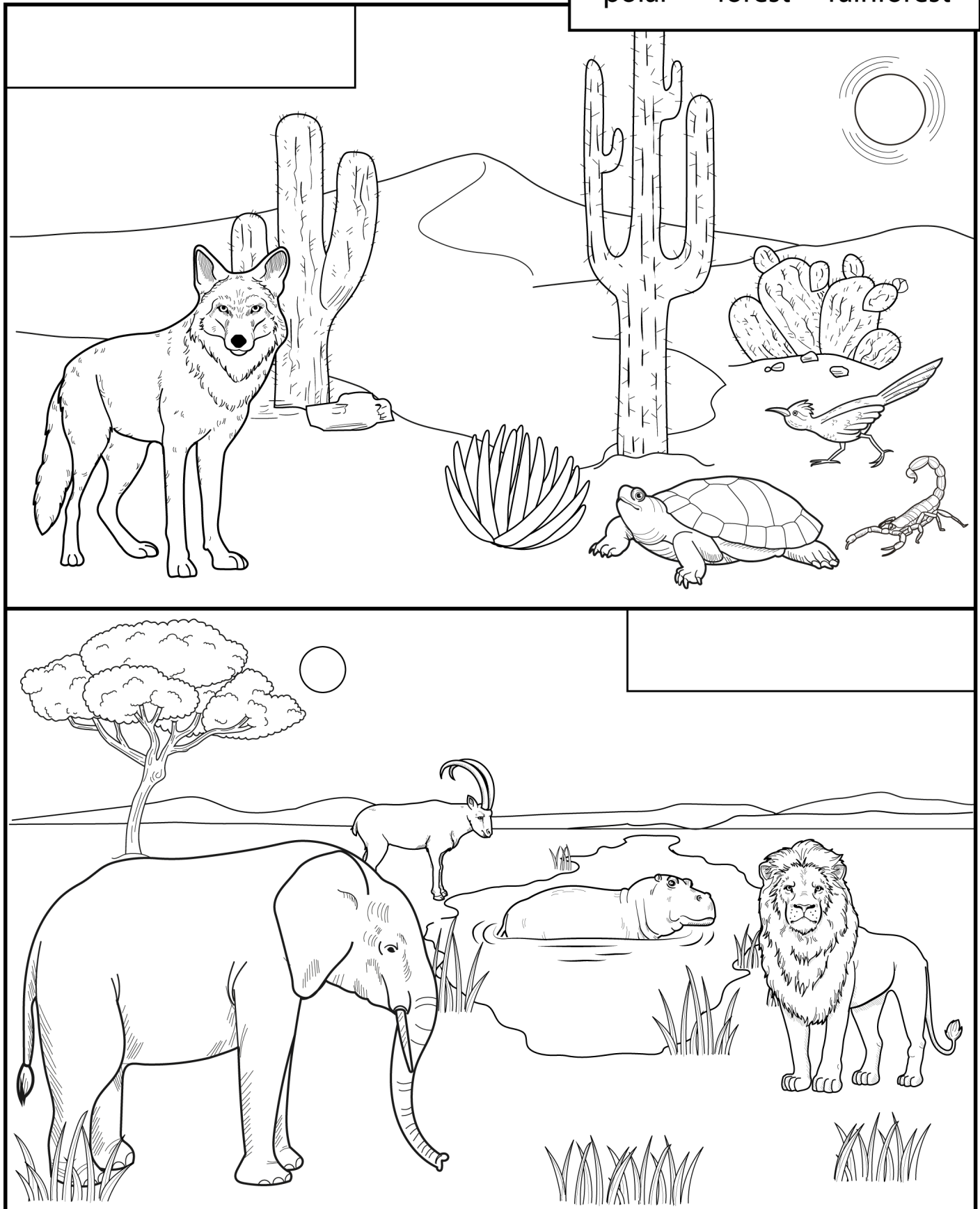
Ask your child to identify the habitat where each of her stuffed animals would live.

Identifying Habitats



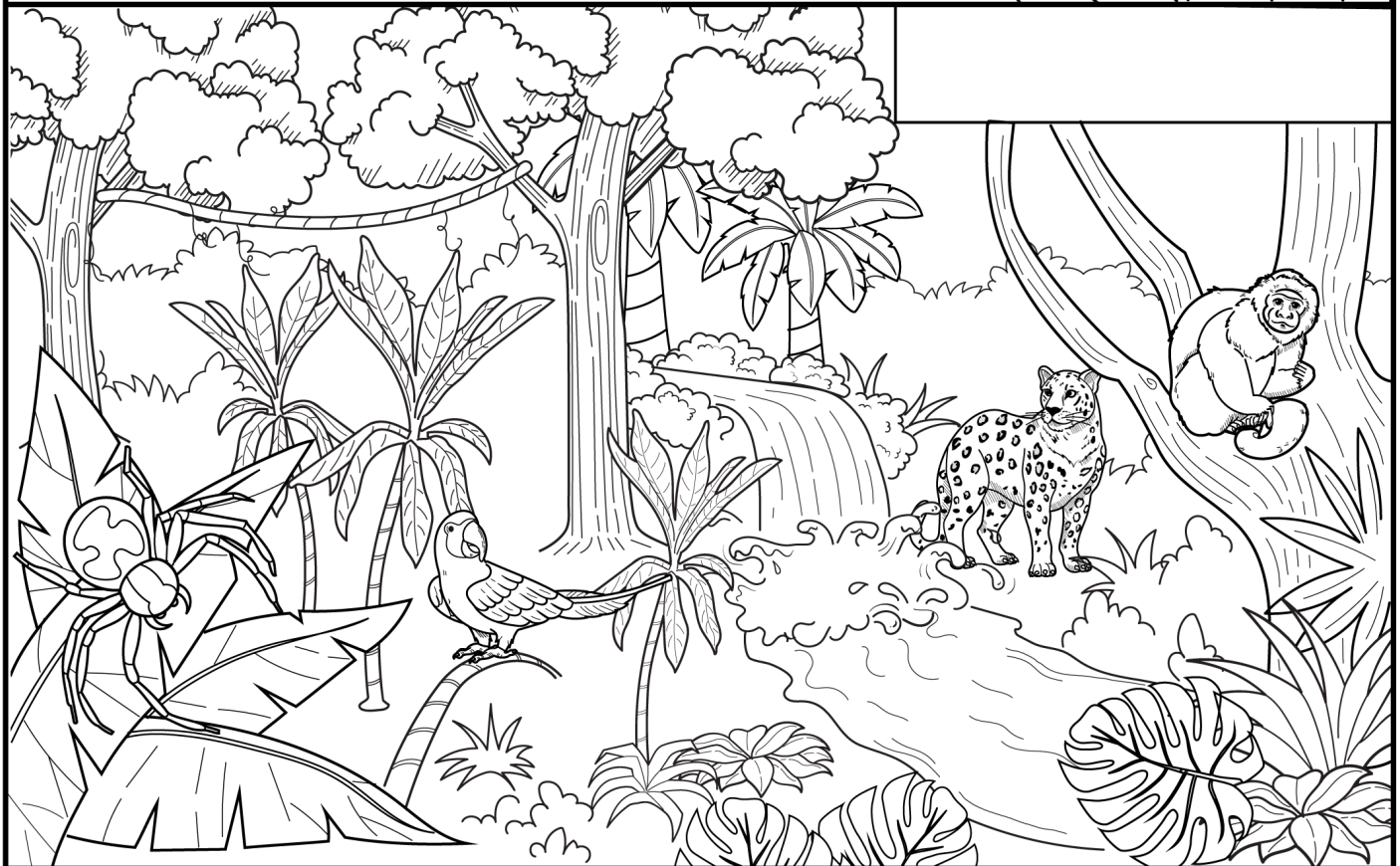
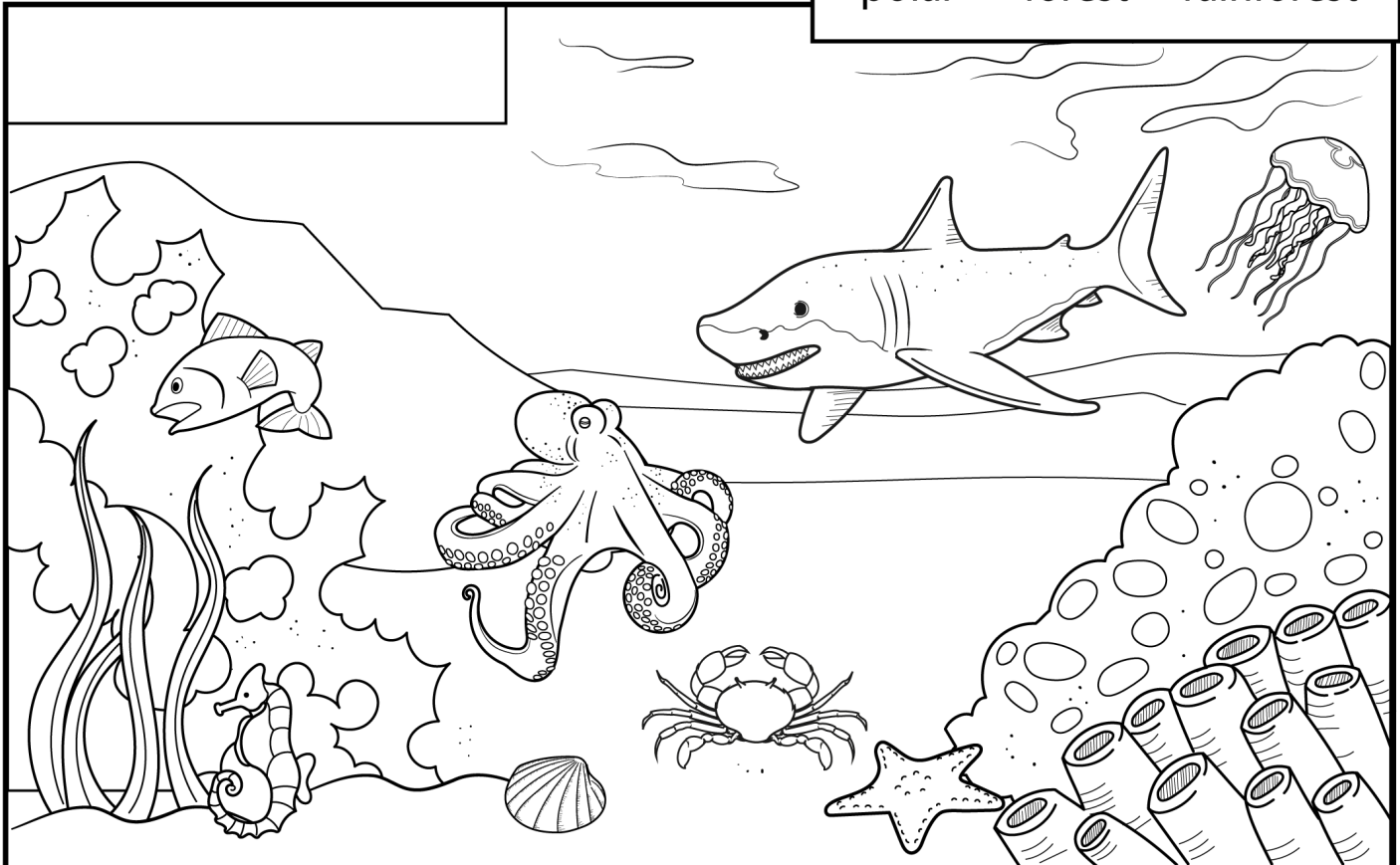
Identifying Habitats

ocean desert savanna
polar forest rainforest



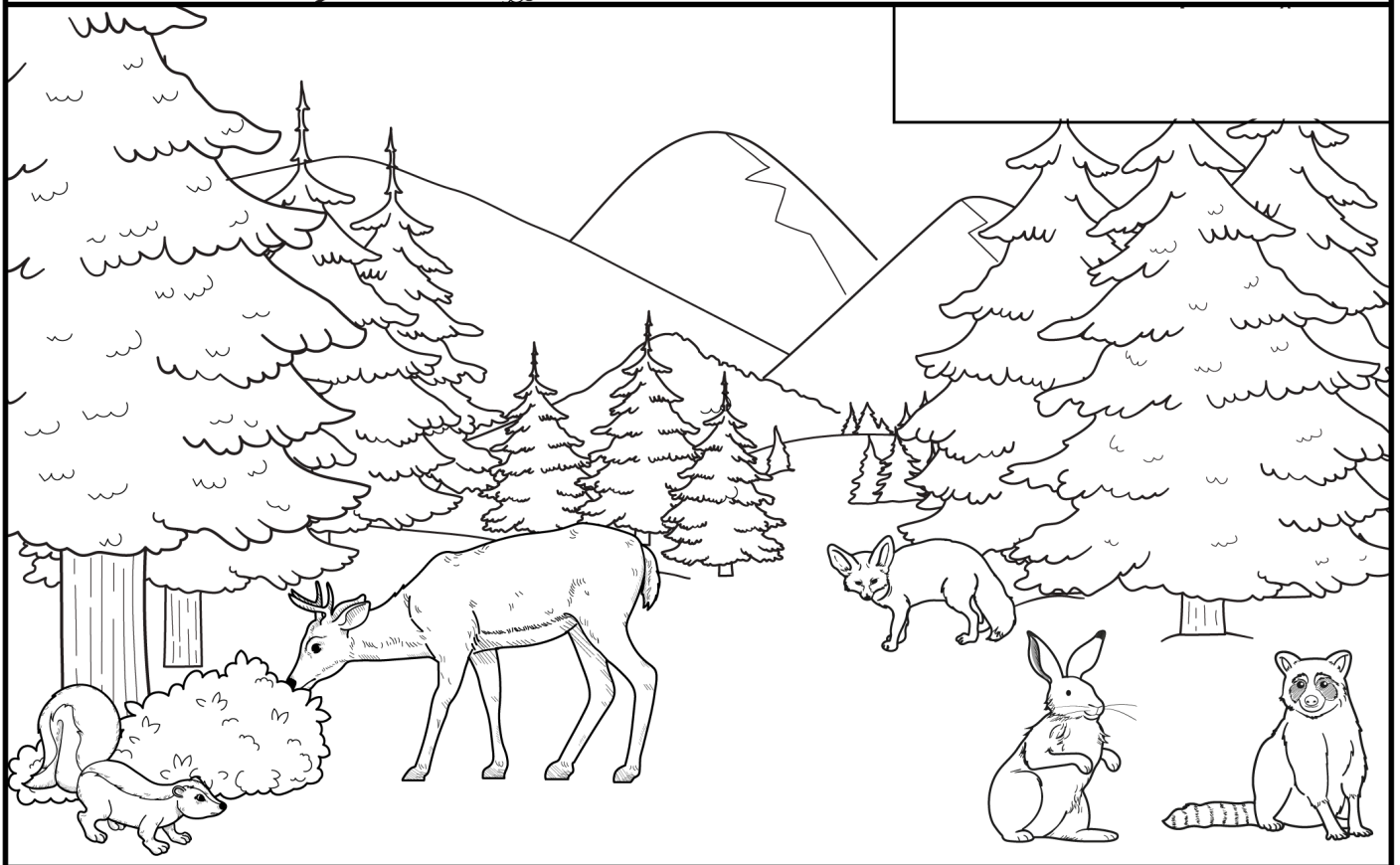
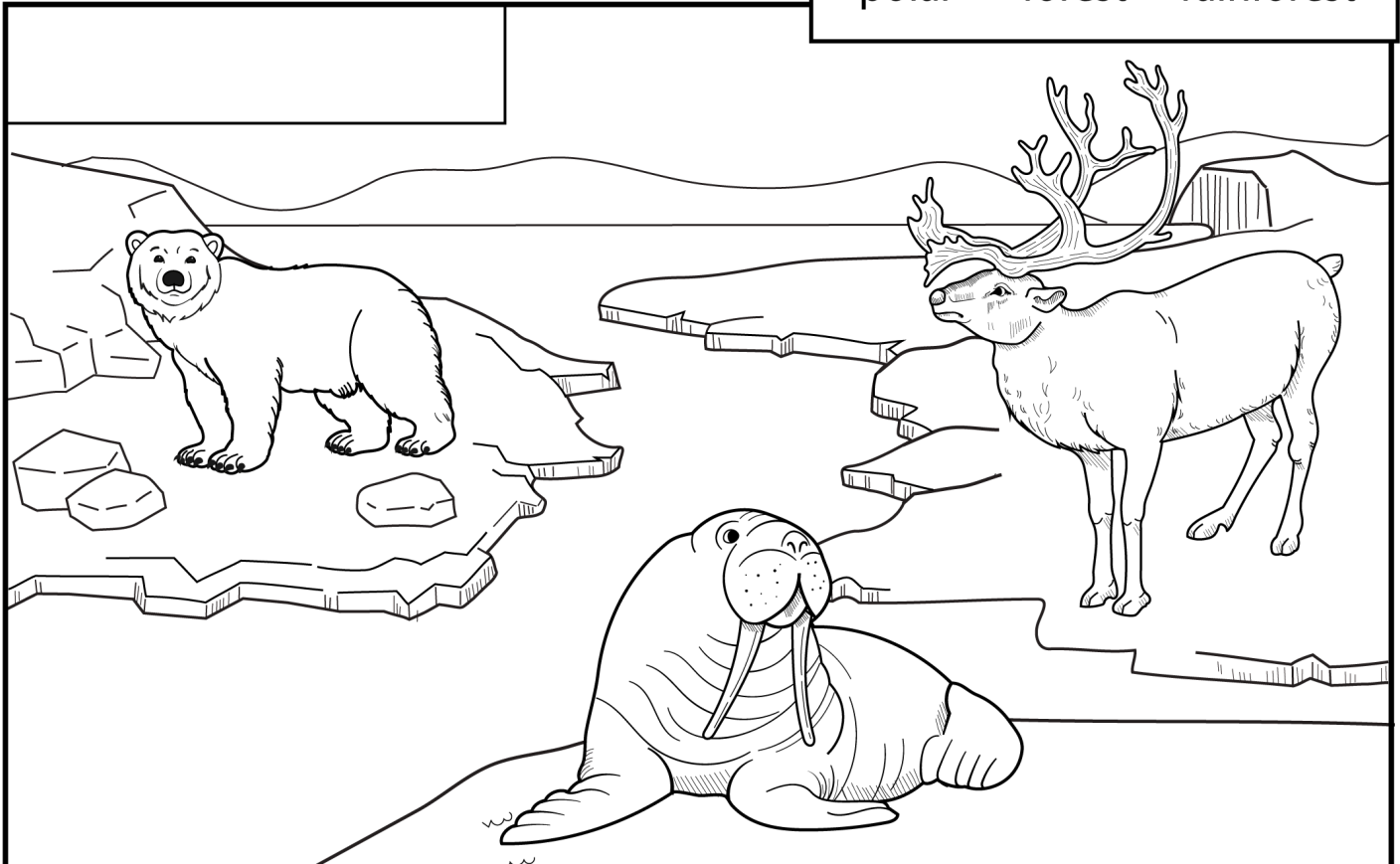
Identifying Habitats

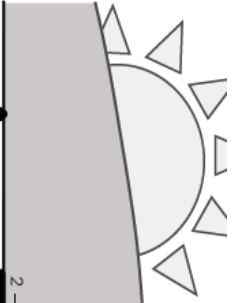
ocean desert savanna
polar forest rainforest



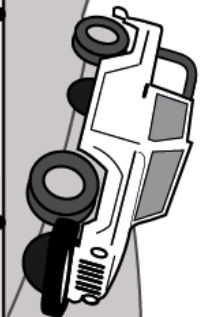
Identifying Habitats

ocean desert savanna
polar forest rainforest





ب



Handwriting practice lines showing the letter 'j' written on ruled lines, with arrows indicating the stroke direction.

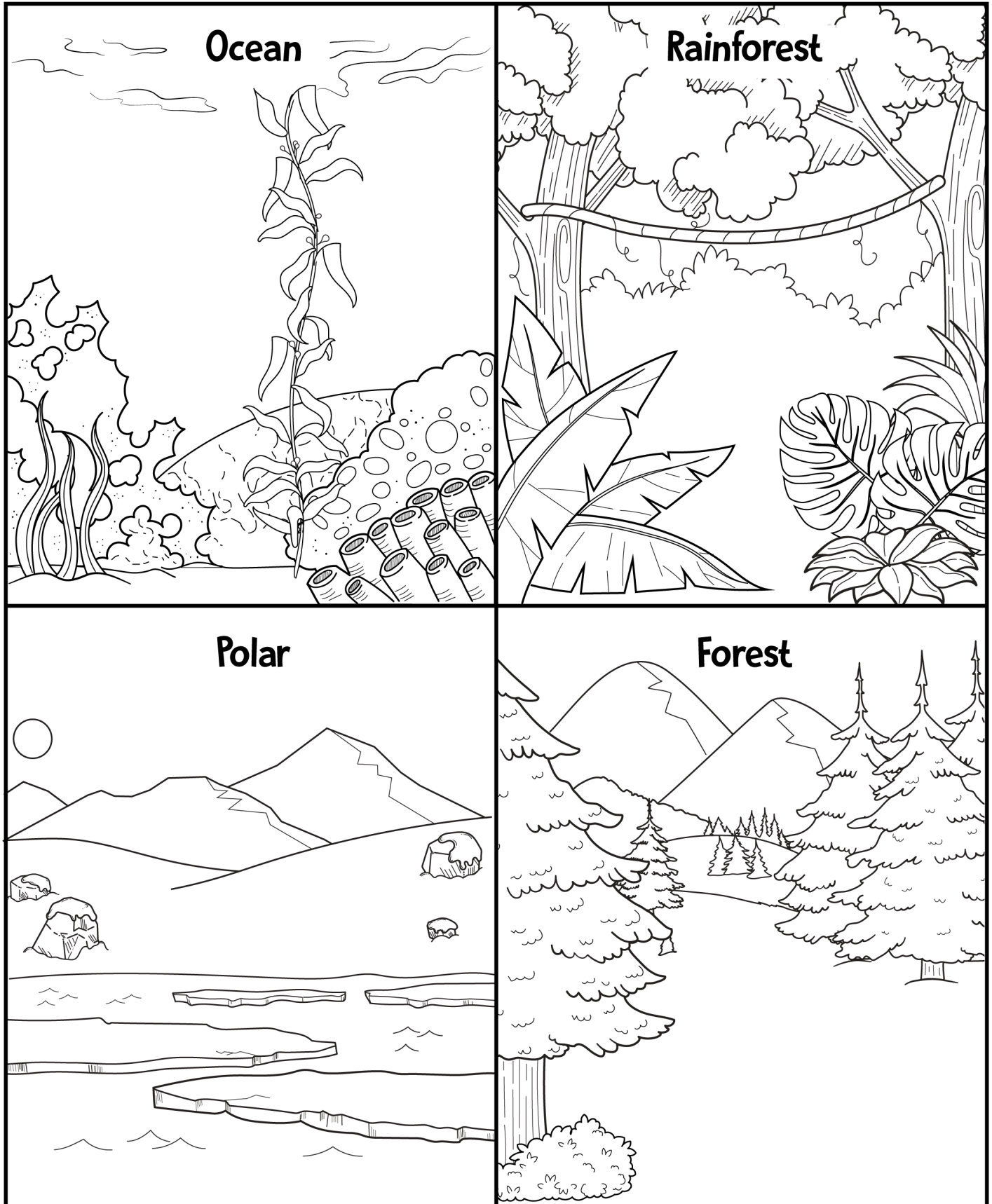
С

C.

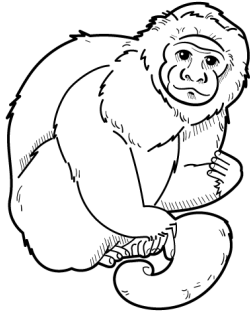
jungle.

Jeep

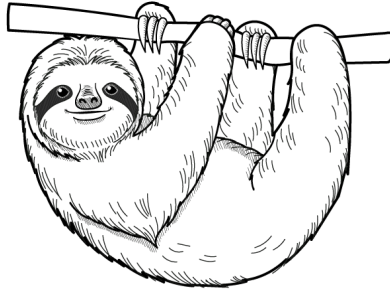
Let's Create a Habitat!



What Habitat Am I From?



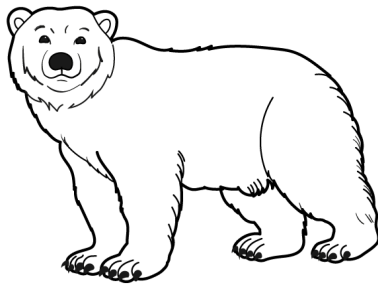
MONKEY



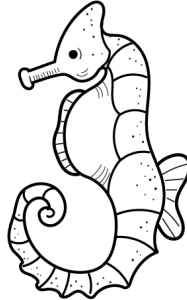
SLOTH



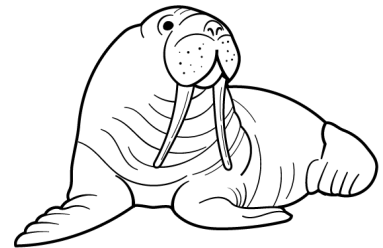
SQUIRREL



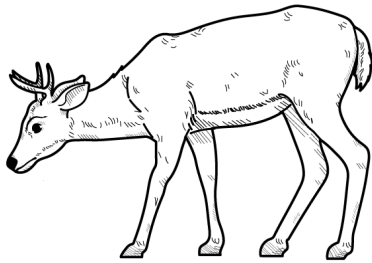
POLAR BEAR



SEAHORSE



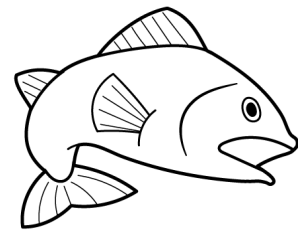
WALRUS



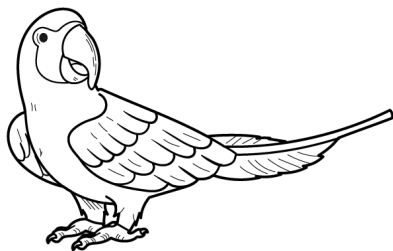
DEER



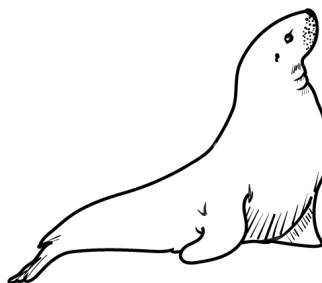
RACCOON



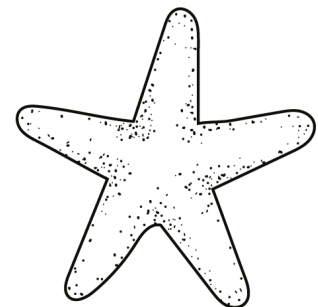
FISH



PARROT

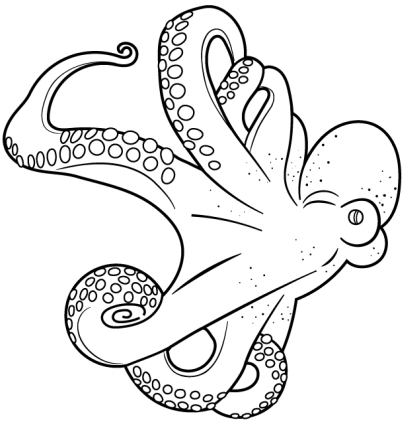


SEAL



STARFISH

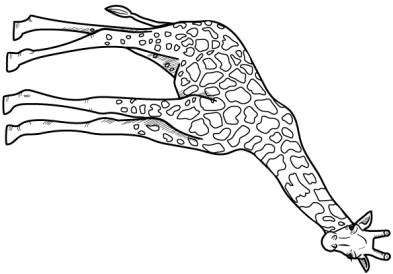
Let's Create a Habitat!



OCTOPUS



POLAR BEAR

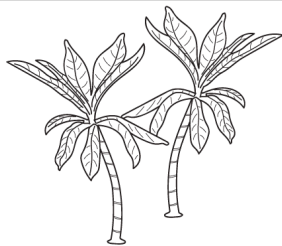
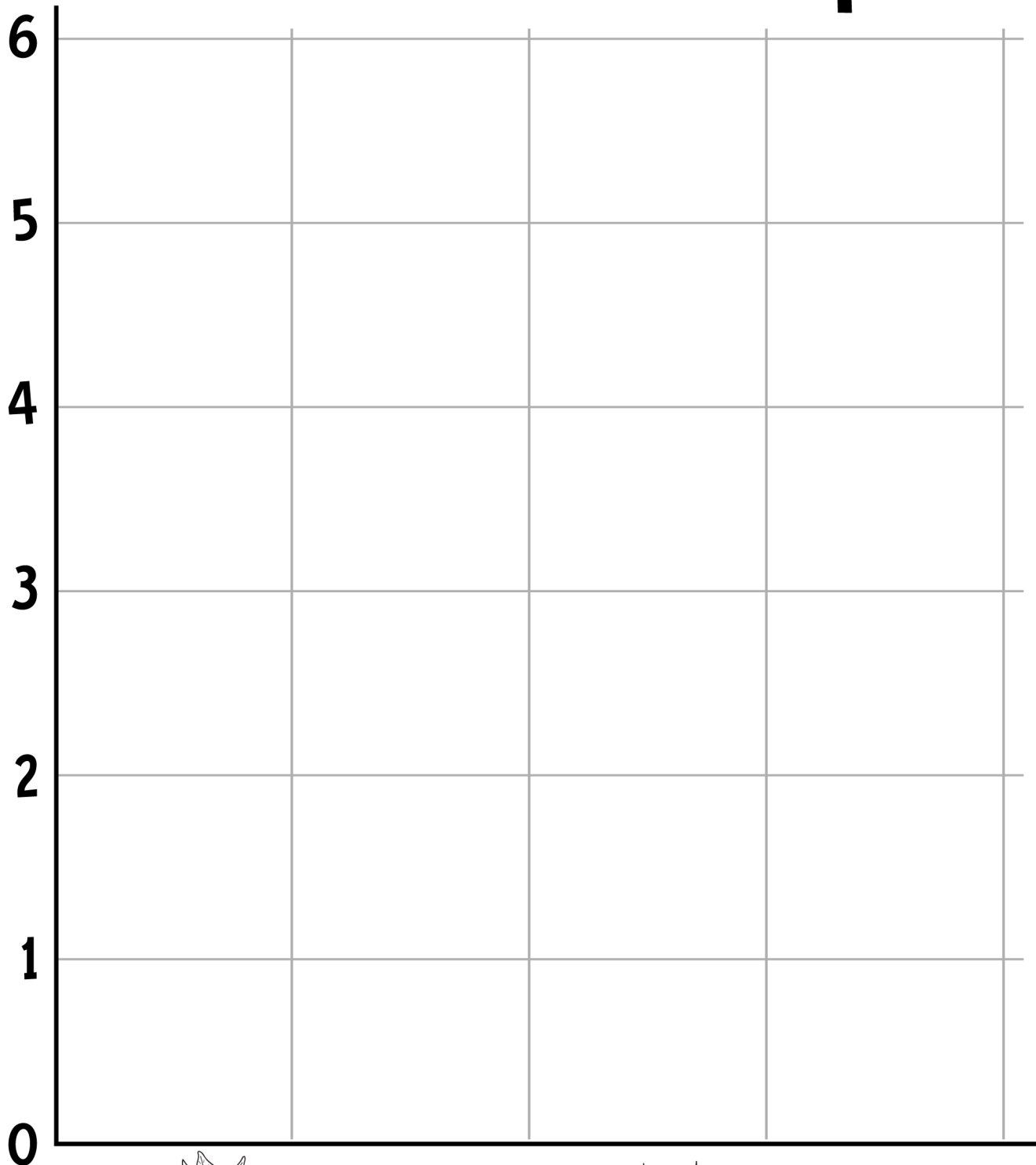


GIRAFFE

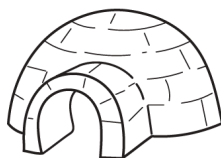


PARROT

Animal Habitat Graph



Rainforest



Polar



Forest



Savanna