



Crafts

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Animal Illusion

Materials:

- Habitat Sheet
- Paper
- Pencil
- Crayons or Markers
- Tape
- Glue Stick
- Paper Plate or Piece of Cardboard

Talk About It:

Nests, Burrows, Houses, and Habitats

Animals have homes just like people do! What are your child's favorite animals? Together, talk about those animals' habitats. Remind your child that a habitat is a place where animals live and can find food, water, and a place to sleep. What animal habitats might be near your home or in your local park?

Look It Up

Look in a book or online to learn about different animal habitats. How are the habitats different? For example, what is a tiger's habitat like? How is that different from a whale's habitat? Could a tiger live in a whale's habitat? Why not?

Make it:

Step 1: Things You'll Need

Collect the items from the materials list.

Little Hands Tip: Make as many animal sounds as you can. Play an animal sound guessing game.



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Step 2: Print It Out

Print out the Habitat Sheet or help your child draw a habitat on a small piece of paper.

Step 3: Home Decor

If you've printed out the habitat picture, invite him to color and draw on it. What kind of animal lives here?

Little Hands Tip: Talk about what will make his animal friend comfortable in its habitat.

Step 4: Creating a Creature

Ask him to draw a picture of the animal on another piece a paper.

Step 5: Adults Do the Cutting

Next, carefully cut out both pictures for your child.

Step 6: Make the Circle

Cut a paper plate or piece of thin cardboard into a circle.

Step 7: Glue it Together

Help him glue the habitat picture on one side and the animal picture on the other side.

Step 8: From Pencil to Wand

Attach an unsharpened pencil to the bottom of the plate with tape. Use enough tape so the plate is very secure.

Step 9: Move It

Encourage your child to hold the pencil between both palms. Then have him move one hand forward and the other hand backward, as though he is rubbing his hands together. The plate will spin quickly back and forth, and it will look like the animal is in its habitat!

Little Hands Tip: Make up a story about a day in the life the animal.

Step 11: Share It

Make some more! What other animal and habitat combinations can you think of? You might try a frog in the wetlands, a camel in the desert, or a parrot in the rainforest!