

Animal Families & Habitats

Connecting Through Play & Culture



Attributions

The CHILD Family Kits are a collaborative project under the Cultural Heritage Improves Learning & Development (CHILD) curriculum.

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BRIDGE - Borrow

Materials:



2 Books



Plush Sea Otter



Tiny Nest
Habitat Game

Now is a great time to practice counting skills by making sure all of the materials are in the kit!

1 2 3 4

Family Message

Exploring Animal Families and Habitats

Throughout this kit, use the activities to playfully explore sets of animal family units. Learn more about how they care for each other, just as we do. Compare your family connections to those within the stories.

This kit includes:

- Books to learn about animal families.
- A sea otter for snuggling while reading together.
- An animal and habitat matching game.
- Activities for exploring animal habitats.

Enjoy this journey in learning about Animals!

Got 5 minutes? Read a story or choose a short activity. If you have a larger amount of time, spend 20 minutes to complete the play dough activity.

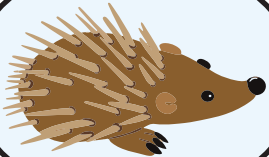
Story Time



Habitat Activities



Design a Play Dough Porcupine



Career Connection



See what groups of animals you can find throughout this kit!

Select your favorite this time and check this kit out again!

BRIDGE - Read

Sharing Stories

Find a comfy spot and snuggle up for story time!



Picture Walk

Flip through the pages, without reading words, to highlight the illustrations and ask guiding questions such as these:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- Which animals have you seen in your community?
- What do you notice about the animal habitats?
- What are the animal families doing together?





Where Do I Sleep? *A Pacific Northwest Lullaby*

Author: Jennifer Blomgren
Illustrator: Andrea Gabriel

Ask Engaging Questions

What do you notice about this animal's habitat?

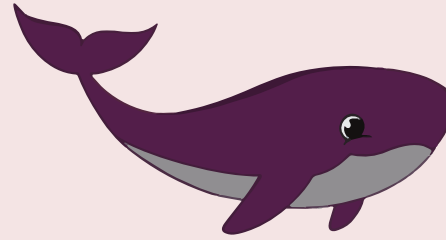
Which animal families live in water habitats?

Which types of habitats do we have around our community?

In which animal home would you choose to sleep?

Extend the Learning

Point to an animal in the story to help your child think of a rhyming word to match.



EARLY READING SKILL

Rhyming

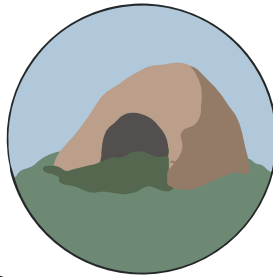
By playfully exploring sounds of language, children develop an understanding of smaller units or words and how these create patterns of spoken language.



Let's Read It Again!

Collecting Data

Throughout the story, compare animal habitats. Make a list of the following habitats and use tally marks to track each one.



**How many animals live in each type of habitat?
Which habitat has the most animals from the story?**

The 5 Math Areas

Numbers & Counting
Patterns & Story Problems
Data Analysis & Probability
Measurement & Math Tools
Shapes & Spatial Awareness

EARLY MATH SKILL Data Analysis

By comparing groups and using tally marks to represent the actual number, children begin to develop critical thinking skills and are able to understand concepts of less and more within early data collection.

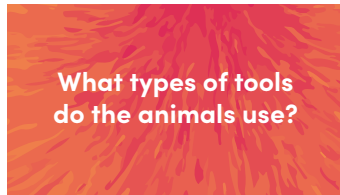
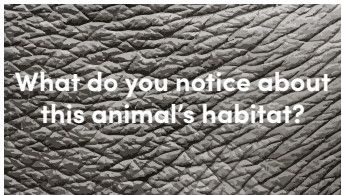
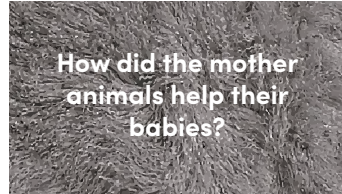
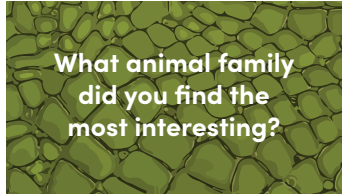


Follow Me: Animal Parents & Babies

National Geographic Reader

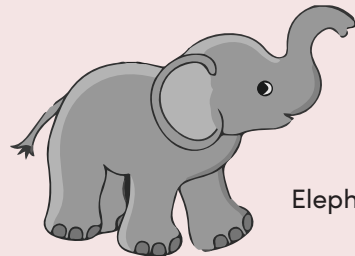
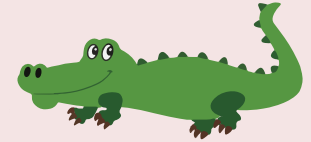
Author: Shira Evans

Amazing Animals



Move Like the Animals

Play charades to act like the animals from the story:



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Gross Motor Skills

Moving big muscles in a game like charades promotes coordination, develops balance, and encourages creativity!

BRIDGE - Investigate

Honoring Connections

Animals and humans have a long standing relationship with one another. We rely on them for food and clothing, and they rely on us to take care of their habitats for future generations. Through time, animal populations have altered for a variety of reasons. Discuss types of animals that were once around but may no longer be present. Notice how the land or water may have changed over time in your community. Ask a local expert to share their perspective on these changes.

- Recall a time or memory you had while animal viewing together.
- Include details such as the type of habitat the animals were in, such as the lake or on the mountainside.
- Reference the importance of taking care of our environment so as to protect animals and their homes.



Groups of Animals

Use playdough to create groups of animals.
Look up the collective term for each type of animal.

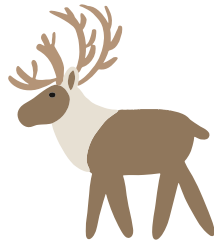
*Extra Tip: Line up the animals in a row to compare easily!

How many animals are in this group?
Which group has less or more?

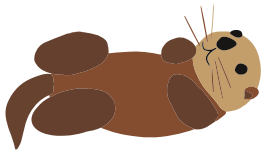
Types of Collectives to Look up:



Prickle of Porcupine



Herd of Caribou



Family/Raft of Otters



Sleuth of Bears

Naming Animals

Create labels for your sets of animals.

Use thin cardboard, like the back of a cereal box, index card, or small piece of paper.

Fold or bend it in half.

Write the names of animals on each one.



*Extra Tip: Emphasize the beginning sound of each animal and "practice" reading the signs!

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

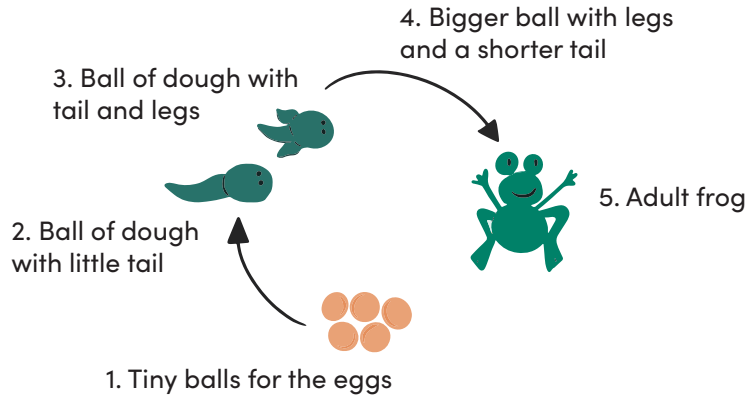
~Language Title~

Highlighting the connection that words contain meaning, fosters early reading skills, promotes communication, and deepens comprehension.

Exploring Life Cycles

Pick one of your created animals and research the life cycle. Create the stages of the life cycle with dough.

Alaska Wood Frog



**Extend the Fun:*

Take photos of each stage to create a small animation of your play dough life cycle to recall all the stages the frog goes through!

A group of frogs is called an army!

Animal Party Game!

How to play:

Select 4 toy animals to be at the party and place them in a circle. Gather extra toys as gifts to place into the middle of the circle.



Take a pair of dice and try to roll for doubles. If a double is rolled, that animal gets to take a toy from the center of the circle. Pass the dice to the next animal and play until all toys are gone.

Set a timer for 3 minutes.

Each animal rolls dice quickly and they each get to "steal" a toy from another animal's pile. **<with doubles?>**

When the timer goes off, that's the end of the game!



Helpful tip: Usually children (or animals) are encouraged to share toys if they see one animal did not get anything.

Difficult Conversations

A good way to talk to your child about how to handle difficult conversations is by using animals.



Pretend Scenario: Dealing With a Bully

How can your child intervene?

How can they be kind to the animal getting picked on?

How can they tell another adult (older animal) about it and ask for help?



BRIDGE - Design



Q is for Quill

Make presents for your family like I did with this porcupine sculpture. I gave this to my sister, Finn, as a special gift. I liked learning about porcupines and how they have fur and tails too. What do you like learning about?

See you next time! - Sawyer

STEAM

EXPLORE 1

If you don't already have some, explore a chemical reaction by making play dough.

DESIGN 2

Design a porcupine using technology to research porcupine body and hair.

CREATE 3

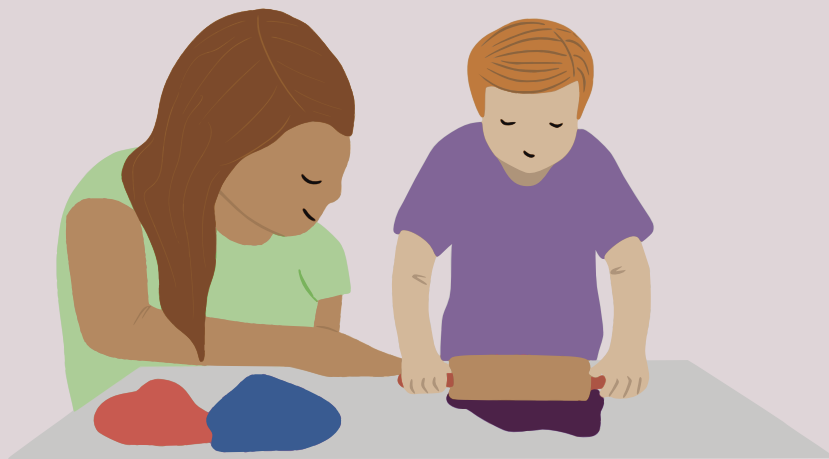
Mold play dough and use toothpicks or quills (if available).

OBSERVE 4

Observe texture by playing with different types of tools and describing it.

IMPROVE 5

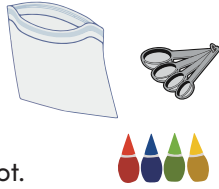
Using math, improve your design by inventing different textures to represent the 3 types of fur.



1 EXPLORE

Identify and combine dry materials in large pot.

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar



Add wet ingredients to the dry mixture.

- 2 cups lukewarm water
- 2 Tablespoons of vegetable oil (or coconut oil)



Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until dough has thickened and formed a ball.

Remove from heat and then place inside a gallon sized bag or onto wax paper. Allow to cool slightly and knead until smooth.

Divide dough into quart size bags (1 per color) and add desired food coloring. Knead to mix.

Store the play dough inside bags to keep fresh for up to 3 months.

Science

Play dough is a great example of chemistry!

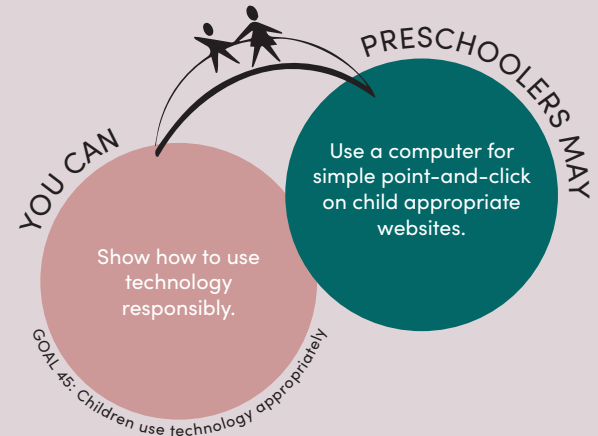
Technology is Used for Research

If you have access to internet or books on porcupine, look up with your child to learn more about the animal. They are fascinating creatures!



What did you learn that you can incorporate into your design?

Technology



2 DESIGN

Collect Materials



Clay
or Play Dough



Porcupine Quills
(or toothpicks)

Optional



Lighter
(if using quills)



Fork



Scissors

Ask your child whether each material is technology?

Have your child point to **technology** or **not**.



Guiding Questions:

Is it found in nature or invented by humans?

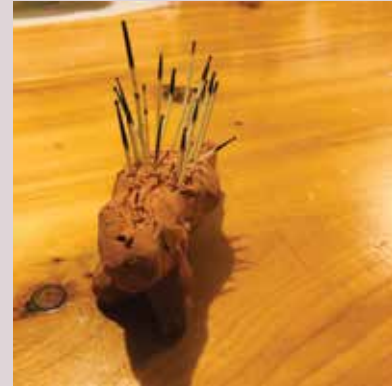
What is it made of? (discuss characteristics)

How is this a tool helpful to humans?

Handling Quills - Safety

If using porcupine quills, it is essential to burn the sharp barbed end of the quill before allowing your child to handle the quill.

Explain to your child how a porcupine quill will work its way into the body of whatever it has stuck unless it is pulled out right away. The barbed point acts as an anchor to pull at the opposite direction of entry, making it painful to pull out.



How can we design a porcupine?

What should we do first, second, and third?

3 CREATE

1 Prepare Quills

Burn the sharp barbed end of the quill, before allowing your child to handle the quill.



Toothpicks work great if you don't have any porcupine quills.

2 Mold Porcupine

Use clay to make a porcupine model with your child. Discuss the body parts needed to create a porcupine (head, legs, body, tail).



Research online to understand the shape.

Engineering

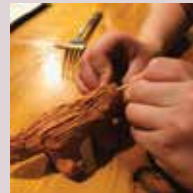
Engineers create things that help people!

3 Add Texture

Use a fork to create the texture of the porcupines hair and quills.

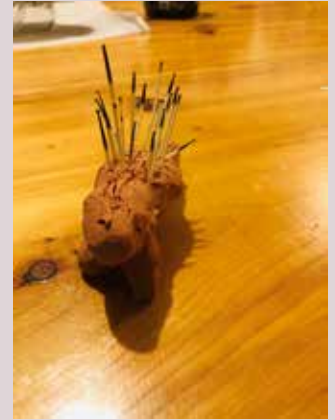


Sawyer added more details to the face using the end of a burnt quill.



4 Insert Quills

Poke burnt quills into body.



Sawyer was so thrilled with her porcupine she decided she wanted to 'gift' it to her sister.

4 OBSERVE

Art

Art Concepts Focus: TEXTURE

What other textures can your child create to represent these types of fur?

Find objects around the room and experiment by pushing them into the clay.

Think of interesting vocabulary words to describe textures: flat, wrinkly, rippled, jagged, smooth, coarse, etc.



Hollow barbed quills

White or yellow tipped guard hairs

A coat of dark fine underfur

5 IMPROVE

How can you improve your design using math?

Porcupines have 3 different types of fur.

Which fur acts as the insulator that keeps the porcupine warm in the winter? (Hint: shortest)

These hairs are called guard hairs because they protect the under fur. (Hint: longest - as long as 4 inches)

This is the protection for the quill (as long as 3 inches).

What other adaptations can you learn about? Toes and claws? Teeth?

MY 5 SENSES

Have your child describe the visual texture (what they see) or tactile texture (what they feel).

BRIDGE - Grow

When I Grow Up...

Wildlife Biologists help us understand animals.

What is important to Wildlife Biologists?

★ Job Safety

Biologists learn how to safely handle and interact with wildlife.

★ Teamwork

They work with other biologists to research animal populations and patterns to help in preserving animal habitats.

★ Practice

They spent a long time learning about animal species and their ideal habitats or homes.



I can be a Wildlife Biologist!

Wildlife Biologists are scientists who study animal populations and how they interact within their ecosystems.

As I Grow...

I can be an animal expert.

PROTECT ANIMAL HABITATS



TEAMWORK



RESEARCH



PRACTICE COUNTING



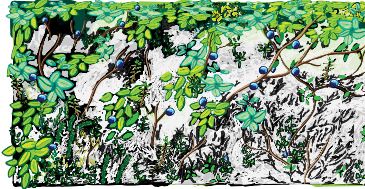
BRIDGE - Explore

Explore the Language App!



Can you find these words?

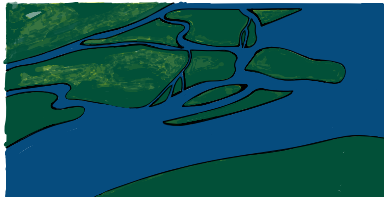
Tundra



Ocean



River



What to Explore Next?

We hope you have enjoyed this theme! Here are some additional ways you can continue to explore our family kits.

Share the Activities You Did Together



Visit the National Geographic Kids Website



Check Out Another BRIDGE Family Kit



References

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