

## Whose Habitat is That Post Visit Guide: 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

*These resources will expand upon your zoo visit and provide additional opportunities for your students to learn and explore in the classroom and beyond!*

### In-Classroom Activities

#### **ONE FOOT SAFARI**

Encourage your students to take a closer look at their schoolyard by doing this small-scale habitat survey. Have students pair up and give each a ruler, popsicle sticks (4), string, a magnifying glass, and a way to record their observations (pencil, paper, or nature journal). Students will measure out a one-foot by one-foot square with their rulers and mark out the plot with the popsicles, sticks and string. They will then make observations about the plants and animals found in their plot; have them identify species they recognize, draw pictures, make lists, and even take photos for further investigation later.

#### **POLLINATOR PITSTOP**

Create a habitat right outside your school and attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies, even in an urban setting! Have students research and develop a plan, including what materials will be used to build the space (pots, recycled containers, pallets, etc), what types of plants would grow best in your area, and how they will continue to care for the space (schedule for watering, weeding, observation, etc). If funds are not available, have students assist in setting up a fundraiser or awareness campaign.

### Watch & Learn

#### **WHAT IS A HABITAT?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrSWYE37MJs>

#### **HOME SWEET HABITAT**

<https://youtu.be/p15IrEuhYmo>

### Get Involved!

Encourage your students to become citizen scientists and help collect data for real environmental research!

#### **Celebrate Urban Birds**

This project was started by Cornell in order to reach diverse urban audiences and collect high-quality data from participants to learn how different environments will influence the location of birds in urban areas. They offer mini-grants, youth development opportunities, seasonal challenges, classroom resources and much more.

<https://celebrateurbanbirds.org/>

## Student Take Home Worksheet

*Encourage students to continue the lesson at home with family or friends using these activities!*

### Create a Backyard Habitat

Even if you live in an urban setting, you can create homes for animals and watch them up close! Depending on the space and materials available, enlist your family and friends to help create one of the following animal habitat improvements, then make observations about the creatures that visit!



**Bug Hotel:** Using rocks, bricks, branches, and even recyclables such as tin cans, stack objects to create a pile with lots of small spaces in between. Fill the spaces with rolled up newspaper, leaves, smaller sticks, grass, moss, and any other small natural materials that you can find.



**Brush Piles:** Collect branches, logs, and sticks of various sizes. Lay them crisscross over each other, starting with the largest pieces on the bottom, and adding the smaller pieces as you go up. If it is fall, you can rake up leaves and add them to the pile; if it is near the holidays, adding evergreen tree branches can be a great way to recycle Christmas trees and wreathes.



**Bird Feeder:** Create a simple bird feeder using a cardboard toilet paper roll, some twigs, & string! Poke a hole in each side of the tube and tie on the string. Peanut butter or Crisco can be used to stick the seed to the tube, and then twigs can be poked through to create perching for small birds.

# Backyard Habitat Observations

Type of Habitat:

Location:

Date/Time of Study:

Species found:

Behaviors observed:

(feeding, resting, eating, etc)