

**Lesson Plan:**  
**Grade Level:**  
**Grade 2**

# Animal Habitats

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## Background

The world is filled with different habitats. A habitat is the place where an animal lives. Some habitats have milder climates and terrain, while others are more rugged with severe climates. Some of the more gentle habitats include temperate forests, rain forests and the ocean. Examples of more extreme habitats are the deserts, high mountains and tundra.

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## Goal

The goal of this lesson is to teach students about the different habitats from which Safari West animals originate; where they live in the wild. Students will also learn which habitats support which types of species and why.

## At School

Use the Small Mammal Habitat Investigation sheets. Have the students find a good nesting site in one of the school habitats for a wood mouse.

Materials Needed: Worksheets  
Small bottle with lid to represent a mouse  
Warm water

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## At Safari West

The habitats on which your naturalist will focus are,

**Desert** - Fennec fox and desert antelope such as addax will be our examples

**Wetland** - Sarus crane and scarlet ibis will be our models

**Grassland/Savannah** - Giraffe, Patas monkey, cheetah and the Grant's gazelle will serve us here

**Rain forest & Temperate Forest** - Bongo, blue duiker, helmeted guinea fowl and black-and-white ruffed lemurs will be our animal ambassadors.

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## Back in the Classroom

Ask students to describe their backyard or playground. What kind of habitat does it most closely resemble? Is it a temperate one, or is it a tropical, desert or polar climate? What kind of wildlife does it support?

