



Mini 4-H

WILDLIFE



An Introduction to 4-H for Youth in Grades K – 2

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Elkhart County Mini 4-H Wildlife Manual
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4-H Facts



The 4-H Symbol: A four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf.

4-H Colors: Green and White

The 4-H Motto: To make the best better!

The 4-H Pledge:

**I Pledge
My Head to clearer thinking
My Heart to greater loyalty
My Hands to larger service
My Health to better living
For my Club,
My Community,
My Country,
and my World.**

What is Wildlife?



Animals that are not cared for by humans are called wildlife. Wildlife can be as small as an ant or a hummingbird or as large as a moose or an elephant.

ACTIVITY 1 – WILD ANIMALS IN INDIANA

There are many wild animals in Indiana. The largest is the white-tailed deer. Your backyard is a good place to start looking for wildlife. Other places you could visit with an adult might be woods, rivers or lakes. Parks usually have lots of wildlife and nice trails to walk on while you look. Many people keep journals to remind them of the places they visit. Visit several places if you can and write about and/or draw pictures of what you see.

Materials needed for this activity: Pencil

What you will do:

1. Look around and think about the wild animals that live in Indiana.
2. Answer the following questions.

Can you name wildlife that live in Indiana?

What did you learn?

Name one wild animal that lives near your home.

Is there another wild animal near your home? Which one?

ACTIVITY 2 – WHAT DO WILDLIFE NEED?

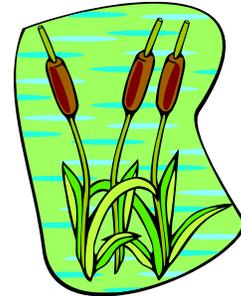
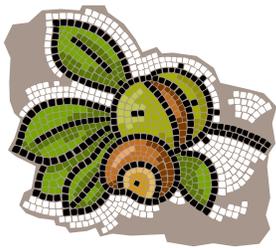
You may have a pet or you may know someone who does. People must do many things to care for their pets. People who own pets must be sure they have the right kind of food, water to drink, a place protected from the weather (shelter) and room to exercise. These are basic needs for animals.

A wild animal needs to be free and should never be kept as a pet!

Materials needed for this activity: Activity sheets and pencil

What you will do:

1. Think about the things wildlife need every day.
2. Label the drawings. Write food, water or shelter next to each picture.



What did you learn?

What animal might live in a tree?

Do you see any wildlife homes near your home? What?

ACTIVITY 3 – HABITATS

A habitat has everything needed for that animal to survive. Wildlife is considered a natural resource. Other natural resources are the plants, trees, soil and water that make habitats for wildlife.

Habitats must include food, water, shelter and space in a suitable arrangement for survival.

There are many different kinds of habitats. Different animals like different places to live.

Habitats

Wetland: An example of this would be a swamp or marsh. Animals living in a wetland like a lot of mud but do not live under water.

Woodland: An example of a woodland would be a forest with many trees and shade.

Meadow: A lot of tall grasses would be found in a meadow. There would be a lot of sun there.

Lake: Many animals live in the water or like to spend a lot of their time in the water. These animals would like to live in or near a lake.

Materials needed for this activity: Activity page and pencil

What you will do:

1. Look at the animals and their needs listed here.
2. Fill in the chart for each animal. What are the basic needs for each animal?

Can you match the animals with their habitats?

Animal – Squirrel

Food:
Water Source:
Shelter:
Space:

Animal – Minnow

Food:
Water Source:
Shelter:
Space:

Animal – Turtle

Food:
Water Source:
Shelter:
Space:

Animal – Quail

Food:
Water Source:
Shelter:
Space:

Use the following words to match with the correct animal above:

Food

- Insects
- Small plants
- Seeds
- Acorns

Water Source

- Lake
- Dew
- Puddles
- Marsh

Shelter

- Under a lily pad
- Tree
- Mud
- Tall grass

Space

- Wetland
- Woodland
- Meadow
- Lake

Answers for “Can you match the animals with their habitats?”

- Squirrel – acorns, puddles, tree, woodland
- Minnow – small plants, lake, lily pad, lake
- Turtle – insects, marsh, mud, wetlands
- Quail – seeds, dew, tall grass, meadow

What did you learn?

Can you list some other examples of wildlife food?

Sources of water?

Places used for shelter?

ACTIVITY 4 – WILDLIFE IS EVERYWHERE

Ask permission to go outside and look for signs of wildlife. Find examples of things that animals have used things for food, water or shelter.

Look for leaves with bites taken out of them or shells of nuts on the ground.

You may see a nest, a piece of fur stuck in a fence or even a footprint in the mud.

Materials needed for this activity: Activity sheet, pencil, and crayons

What you will do:

1. Take a walk in the park or the yard and look for animal signs.
2. Write about or draw pictures of the animals you saw or the signs of animals you saw.

Use this space to write about or draw pictures of the animals or signs of animals that you saw.

What did you learn?

What animal did you see?

Where did you see this animal?

Did you see another animal?

What animal?

ACTIVITY 5 – ANIMAL HOMES

Many small animals make their homes in branches of trees or live in a hole in a tree trunk. Have you ever seen a hole in a tree? Take a walk in a park, woods, neighborhood or school yard and look for animals that use trees for their homes. Look for a bird nest or a home where a squirrel, raccoon or hive of bees may live.

You should never disturb a wild animal in their home. You could be injured if you get too close to a beehive or other wild animal's home.

Materials needed for this activity: Activity sheet, pencil, crayons, scissors, magazines, glue, and paper or poster board

What you will do:

1. Make a poster with pictures cut from magazines (ask permission) or pictures you have taken with a camera of animals that make their homes in trees.
2. An alternate activity is to draw and color a picture of an animal and its home in a tree. An example would be a bird in a nest or a raccoon or a squirrel in a hole in a tree.

What did you learn?

What animal did you choose to illustrate?

Have you seen this animal in nature?

Where?

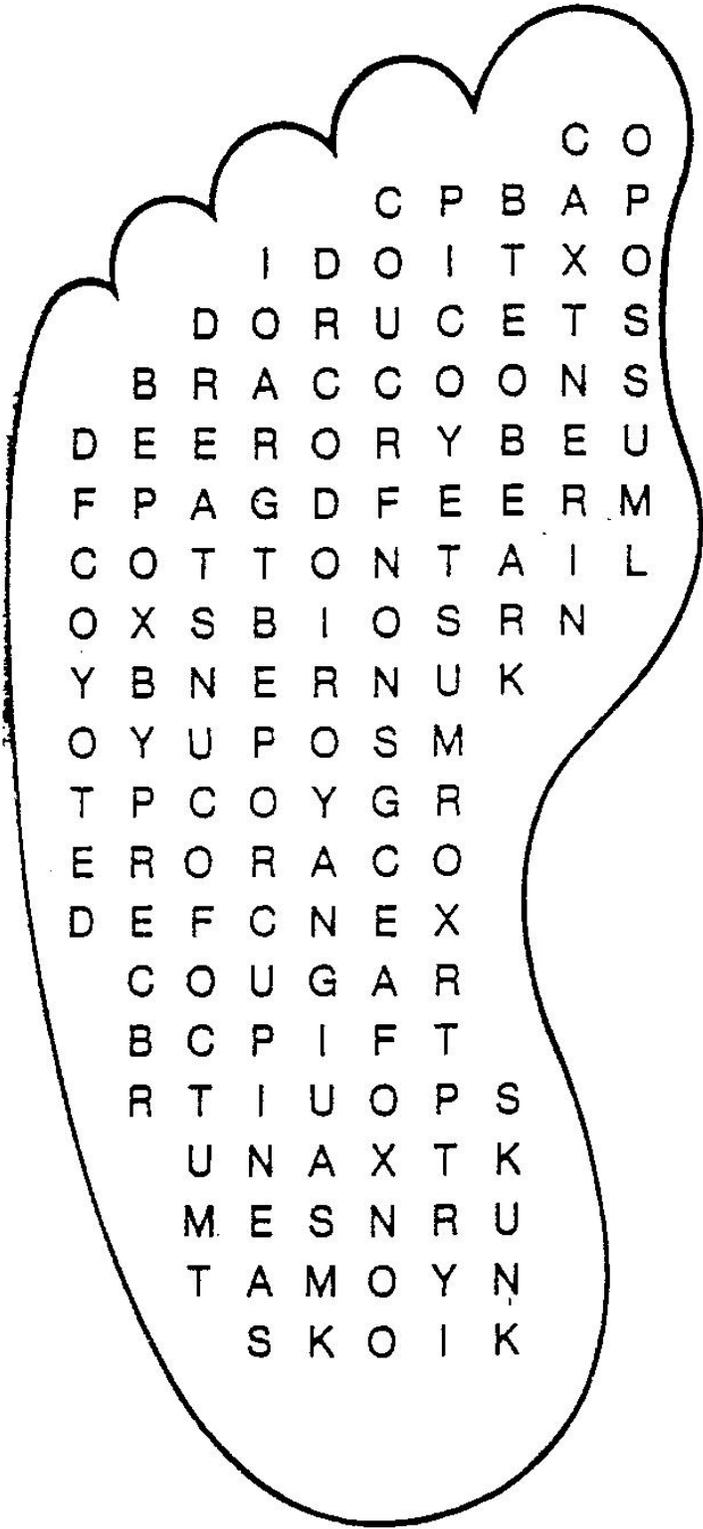
ACTIVITY 6 – ANIMAL FOOTPRINTS

Many times we know an animal lives in a habitat because we see their footprints. Naturalists can identify an animal by their unique footprints.

Materials needed for this activity: Activity sheet and pencil

What you will do:

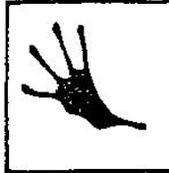
1. Look at the animal footprints illustrated in the word search on the following page.
2. Find the animal names in the word search.



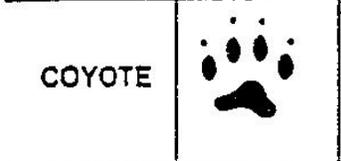
DEER



COUGAR



OPOSSUM



COYOTE



COTTONTAIL



BEAR



FOX



PORCUPINE



RACCOON



SKUNK

What did you learn?

What did you notice about the pictures of the animal footprints?

Have you seen any of these prints in nature?

Where?

Draw the print that you saw below.

What kind of an animal left the print?

Did you see the animals that left the prints?

Do you think you could identify the animal from their footprints?

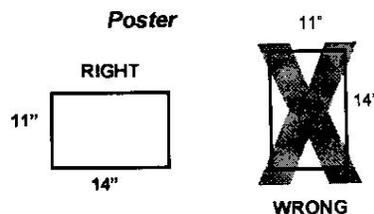
What to Exhibit

WILDLIFE

Choose an animal that you have seen in Indiana and complete one of the following for your 4-H Fair exhibit.

1. Make a Wildlife poster. Your poster must be exactly 11 inches by 14 inches, displayed horizontally (wider than it is tall) and attached to a stiff backing (like cardboard). You may use foam board. Foam board is already stiff and does not require additional backing. Your poster must be covered with clear plastic. This can be a poster sleeve. If you have made a three-dimensional item, you may use clear vinyl. Your poster must have a title.

**NOTE: No oversize posters will be accepted for exhibition.
No un-mounted items will be accepted for exhibition.**



This poster must tell about the animal you have chosen. You may use words, photos, and pictures from magazines or your own drawings to show:

- the animal
 - the kind of shelter it uses
 - the food it eats
 - what kind of space it uses as a habitat
 - the animal's source of water
2. A diorama in a standard-size shoebox, illustrating your animal and its habitat. Your diorama should illustrate the same facts about your animal listed in #1 above. You must cover the front of the diorama with clear plastic.

NOTE: If you are unable to pick your project up on Project Release Day, please make arrangements to have it picked up. All projects must be removed from the exhibit building on that day. There is no available storage space for unclaimed projects.

All posters must include: (both are found on page 14)

- **Record Sheet** (attached to the back of the poster or under the diorama)
- **Exhibit Tag** (attached in the lower right front corner of the poster or diorama)

Exhibit Tag:

Mini 4-H	_____	_____	_____	_____	Wildlife
	Name	City	Grade	School	

Record Sheet

----- **Cut here** -----

Name:

Grade:

The animal that I chose *(type of animal)*:

List some of the things that your animal needs to survive.

Where does your animal live?

Describe your animal's habitat.