



Mini 4-H

WILDLIFE



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

Credit to Elkhart County Mini 4-H



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: none

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?

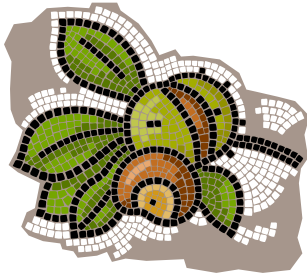
You may have a pet or you may know someone who does. People must do many things to care for their pets. People who own pets must be sure they have the right kind of food, water to drink, a place protected from the weather (shelter) and room to exercise. These are basic needs for animals.

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

Materials needed for this activity: Activity sheets Pencil

What you will do:

1. Think about the things wildlife need every day.
2. Label the drawings. Write food, water or shelter on the line under the pictures.



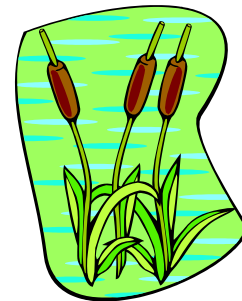
1. _____



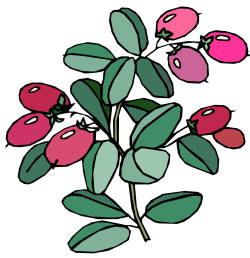
2. _____



3. _____



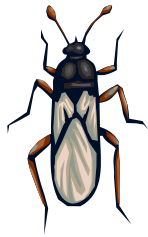
4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____

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 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	Food	Water	Shelter	Space
Squirrel				
Minnow				
Turtle				
Quail				

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? Page 6

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 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 the trunk of a tree. 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 might live.

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

Materials needed for this activity:

activity sheet
magazines

pencil
glue

crayons scissors
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 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.



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? _____

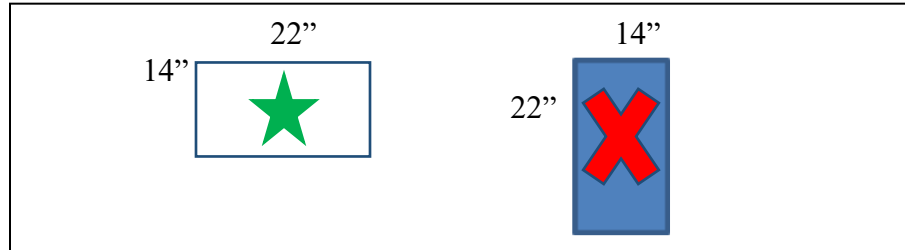


What to Exhibit

WILDLIFE

1. Your poster must be exactly 14 x 22 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.

Poster Layout



NOTE: No oversize posters will be accepted for exhibition.

No un-mounted items will be accepted for exhibition.

Kindergarten: Poster of 3 pictures of Indiana mammals and identify

1st Grade: Poster or report in cover of 5 Indiana birds, identify, habitat and food

2nd Grade: Poster, report in cover or diorama (A *diorama* in a standard-size shoebox, illustrating your animal and its habitat) of 7 Indiana fish.

Mini 4-H

Name _____

Township _____

Grade _____

Wildlife

Exhibit Tag:

----- Cut here -----

Mini 4-H Wildlife Record Sheet

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. _____
