

World Habitats

MATERIALS

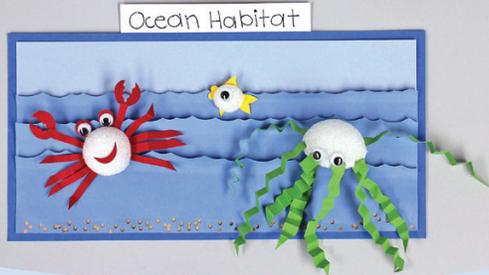
FOR STUDENT:

(for each small group making the ocean habitat; for other habitats, adapt accordingly)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Balls, half of each: 1", 1 ½" and 2" diameters (see FOR TEACHER)
- Cardstock, 12" x 12", asst. colors such as: Several shades of blue, tan, green, red, yellow and white (additional colors for other habitats)
- Wiggle eyes, 10 mm, five - six
- Washable black felt tip marker
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Thick white tacky glue
- Paper plate
- Ziploc bag

FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Ball Assortment Package (Contains four of each: 1", 1 ½" and 2" balls which give you enough for 6 - 8 small groups)
- FloraCraft® Design It:® Wire Cutter
- Serrated knife
- Hole punch, 1/8" diameter
- Paper edgers, wave (scallop)
- Paper cutter
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Glue gun (for teacher only)
- Paper towels



SCIENCE

GRADE LEVEL

SECOND – THIRD

COMPLETION TIME

• 45 minutes

OBJECTIVES

Students learn to:

- Recognize various habitats and the animals living in them
- Interpret drawings of animals into dimensional characters and put them in their habitat
- Work cooperatively with other students

STANDARDS

- See how parts of objects, plants and animals are connected and work together
- Understand that there are different kinds of natural areas, or habitats, where many different plants and animals live together
- See that a habitat supports the growth of many different plants and animals by meeting their basic needs of food, water, and shelter

TEACHER PREPARATION

Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! These instructions provide details on the ocean habitat to serve as an example. Students will come up with many more creative ideas for their habitats if they have an assortment of cardstock colors, other supplies and inspirational drawings. Have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when you're in a hurry to help students. Be sure that the glue has cooled before returning the projects to students (takes a minute or so.) It is also recommended that you make a sample first, before preparing the materials for any others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare the rest of them.

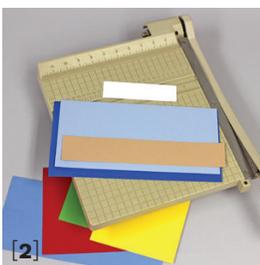
[1] Use a serrated knife to cut the three foam balls in half (which will provide enough for two small ocean groups). Cut enough for all small groups, with extras for groups making characters with bodies and heads like the woodland habitat.

[2] Use a paper cutter to cut light blue (background 5 ½" x 11 ½"), royal blue (mounting 6" x 12"), medium blue (ocean 5 ½" x 11 ½"), tan (sand 1" x 11 ½"), and green, red & yellow (sea creatures 6" square), and white (title 1 ½" x 6"). Similarly, cut other paper colors for various habitats such as tans and browns for desert, bright greens for rain forest

and deeper greens for woodland, etc.

[3] In a plastic bag for each group, put the cardstock papers, foam ball halves, paper plate, wiggle eyes, pencil, marker, and a glue stick. Have tacky glue bottle, paper edgers and hole punch available as well. Set materials in student work areas.

[4] In advance of the work session, explain the project to the students and have them go on the Internet to research and to select their habitat. Also have them find drawings of the animals from that environment. Print them out for them to refer to while working on their projects.



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INSTRUCTIONS

[1] Demonstrate and have students use a glue stick in the four corners of their background paper (light blue) to mount on their mounting paper (royal blue). Have the students use pencils to write the names of the people in their group on the back of the mounting paper.



[2] Have students plan their background (top and middle of paper) and their foreground (bottom of paper). Encourage them to create dimension through folding and layering.

For the ocean habitat, students can use the wave paper edger to cut three bands of water 1", 1 1/2" and 2 1/2" wide. For the waves to show, they can press about 1/4" of the scalloped edge on the side of a desk to make a crease. This will make the waves extend out and show when the layers overlap (narrow at top, wider at bottom). If desired, they can use the small punch along the bottom of the widest wave band, so that when they put a 1" strip of tan behind it, it will look like sand.



[3] While the previous steps were collaborative, the construction of the animals can be more individualized, after students in the group agree on which animals are to be made. Various size half balls can be used to make bodies and heads, while cardstock can be used for the additional parts. Students should draw the parts in pencil

on the colored cardstock, cut out the pieces and add dimension by accordion (or fan) folding the legs, or rippling and bending out various parts for dimension.



[4] Point out to students that cardstock body parts can be all connected and the foam half ball body can be glued on top, like the red crab. Or they can be individually glued onto the foam half ball, like the green octopus. Parts can be assembled with glue stick or for heavier pieces, with tacky glue. Wiggle eyes can be glued to paper or gently pressed into the foam and glued.

Then position foam characters on the mounted paper and use tacky glue to attach them. Have the glue gun ready for you to assist with any challenging gluing.



[5] Have the students write in pencil the name of their habitat on the 1 1/2" x 6" strip. Then have them go over the letters with black marker and use the glue stick to attach it to the top back of the mounted background.



MODIFICATIONS

To simplify project:

- Have the background and mounting papers already glued.
- Ask the students to make only one or two animals.

To expand project:

- Provide assorted colors of acrylic paint, aprons, extra paper plates, water cups, and paper towels for the students to be able to paint their foam ball halves, adding the paper parts.

- Instead of using a flat paper background, use a three dimensional diorama to create more depth.

Note: FloraCraft® has foam dioramas with precut parts that only require simple assembly and they are ready to go!

For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side with the older students doing the research and the drawing and the younger students cutting and gluing.
- Younger students can write about the habitat and list the animals in it, while older students can write about the how the animals survive in that environment.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Create puppets or a play based on the results as well as the research details.
- Based on the animals in the habitats, have students write about how the animals would need to adapt their bodies or their habitats in order to live in one of the other habitats.
- Display the Habitats around the room and have students spend a class period pretending they live in that environment, too.



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TIPS

- Have students brainstorm on the materials they can take from home such as: Aluminum foil for water; small silk flowers for plant life or paper crimps for grass, seaweed and nests, etc.
- Make the craft box available, too: Yarn, string, chenille stems, pom poms, scrap paper, fabric, felt, etc.
- Sometimes the most creative classrooms are the ones with students all doing different things, which can be challenging to manage. Bring in several helpers – parents or older students and pre-cut as much as possible and have lots of extras to allow for choice.
- Make notes and organize items into containers to encourage more self direction.
- Have extras of everything.
- Discuss how to conserve paper by drawing near the edge, not in the middle of the paper pieces.

REFERENCES

One Small Place In A Tree by Barbara Brenner
ABIGAIL and the Sahara Adventure by Tali Carmi (series on various areas)
The ABCs of Habitats by Bobbie Kalman
Animal Habitats!: Learning about North American Animals and Plants... by Judy Press