

**Illinois State Museum**

**School Program**

***Changes: Dynamic Illinois Environments***



**Animal Habitats**

**Grades PreK-2**

Developed with support from a Learning Opportunities Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Dear Educator:

Thank you for reserving the *Animal Habitats* program for your students. This packet is designed to help you prepare your group for the program and make the most of your field trip time at the Museum. For your convenience we've included:

General background materials for your use;  
Pre and post trip activities;  
Suggested books and Web sites; and  
State Learning Standards for this program.

We are eager for your feedback on this packet, especially what is useful and what is not. Please feel free to contact Nina Walthall, Associate Curator of Education, at [walthall@museum.state.il.us](mailto:walthall@museum.state.il.us) with comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

ISM Education Section

## ***Changes: Dynamic Illinois Environments***

### **Animal Habitats Grades PreK-2**

#### **Preparing for Your Visit**

##### **Getting Here**

The Illinois State Museum is located on the corner of Spring and Edwards Streets in the Capitol Complex. Routes into Springfield and to the Museum are well marked. Buses may unload and load directly in front of the Museum on Edwards Street westbound. Bus parking is available at the State of Illinois Visitor Center Parking Area. When you arrive at the Museum, please register your group at the Front Desk in the Lobby.

##### **Visit Guidelines**

Please bring one adult for every ten students. Backpacks, food, beverages, gum, and candy are not allowed in the building. Adult chaperones are required to be with students in the Museum Store and *A Place for Discovery*. Please note that *A Place for Discovery* is closed on Mondays.

##### **Accessibility**

The Museum is accessible to visitors with special needs. Wheelchairs are available at the Front Desk. Please let us know if you have a student with special needs.

##### **Food Service**

Food service and vending machines are not available at the Museum. There is a picnic area at the State of Illinois Visitor's Center, one block away. There are a number of fast-food restaurants within one mile of the Museum.

##### **Photographs**

Visitors are welcome to take photographs in all areas of the Museum except the Art Gallery (depending on the exhibition).

#### **Program Introduction**

*Animal Habitats* is designed to give students an introduction to a variety of Illinois animals and their habitats. Prairie, cave, forest, and river habitats will be explored, along with animals that live in each habitat and their adaptations. During the program, students will have the opportunity to examine specimens representing the animals and their life ways. After the guided program, classroom teachers will guide their students on a "Habitat Hike" through the *Changes* exhibit to look for the animals and habitats just discussed.

This program includes two activities. Your class may do one or both activities:

**Guided Program:** A 30 minute interactive presentation by a Museum educator.

**Independent Activity:** An unguided activity in the *Changes* exhibit, where students (with the help of adult chaperones) search for different Illinois animals in their habitats. The

Museum will provide activity sheets, clipboards, and pencils for your group. After taking part in the *Animal Habitats* program, students should be able to:

- Identify and describe several Illinois habitats (river, forest, prairie, cave, etc.)
- Give an example of a pet and a wild animal and explain how they differ.
- Recall an animal presented in the guided program, and explain how the animal is adapted to live in its environment.

*Animal Habitats* can serve as either an introductory lesson or as a summative review for your students.

## **IL State Goals for Learning**

*Animal Habitats* addresses the following Illinois State Goals for Learning:

**Skills:** Listening, knowing and applying concepts, observing, categorizing.

### **State Goals, Early Elementary:**

- **4.A.1b** Ask questions and respond to questions from the teacher and from group members to improve comprehension.
- **12.A.1a** Identify and describe the component parts of living things (e.g., birds have feathers; people have bones, blood, hair, skin) and their major functions.
- **12.A.1b** Categorize living organisms using a variety of observable features (e.g., size, color, shape, backbone).
- **12.B.1a** Describe and compare characteristics of living things in relationship to their environments.
- **12.B.1b** Describe how living things depend on one another for survival.
- **17.B.1b** Describe physical components of ecosystems.

## **Educator's Background Information**

Please see the attached color facts sheets on Illinois mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, and their habitats. They include some of the animals presented in the guided program, plus several additional animals.

### **After Your Visit**

Here are some activities that you can do with your students after the *Animal Habitats* program:

- Review basic habitats introduced at the Museum and have teams create dioramas using boxes and other craft items and materials from nature such as grasses, wild flowers, etc.
- Play “Who Lives Here?” Attach a picture of an Illinois habitat to the back of a student without showing the student the picture. The student tries to identify the habitat by asking questions of the other students.
- Have students make posters illustrating their favorite habitat, including at least one animal that lives in that habitat. Invite another class in and have the students explain to the visitors how that particular animal is adapted to that environment.
- Create a class mural of various habitats. Students can color, cut and attach animals that live in each habitat.
- As a class project, write a story about various habitats and the animals that live there.

## **Suggested Trade and Reference Books**

Boring, Mel. Birds, Nests and Eggs. Gareth Stevens Publishing. ISBN: 0836820398

Brinkley, Edward. Birds. Reader's Digest. ISBN: 1575843765

Bruce, Jim. Explore and Discover: Mammals. Kingfisher. ISBN: 0753453401

Burnie, David. Birds and How They Live. Dorling Kindersley. ISBN: 1879431971

Collins, Joseph T. and Roger Conant. Peterson's Field Guide: Reptiles and Amphibians. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN: 0395583896

Eifert, Virginia. Illinois Mammals. Illinois State Museum. No ISBN Number.

Holland, Simon and Anna Lofthouse. Eyewonder: Rivers and Lakes. DK Publishing. ISBN: 0789490463

Jones, Steven R. and Ruth C. Cushman. Peterson's Field Guides: Prairie. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN: 0618179305

Kays, Roland W. and Don E. Wilson. Mammals of North America. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691070121

Levinson, Nancy S. Prairie Friends. HarperCollins. ISBN: 0060280018

McCarthy, Colin. Eyewitness: Reptile. Dorling Kindersley. ISBN: 0679807837

Parker, Steve. A Golden Guide: Pond Life. Dorling Kindersley. ISBN: 0394822587

Parker, Steve. Eyewitness: Mammal. Dorling Kindersley. ISBN: 0394822587

Patent, Dorothy H. Animals: On the Trail with Lewis and Clark. Clarion Books. ISBN: 0395914159

Peterson, Roger. Peterson's Field Guide: Wildflowers. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN: 0395906679

Petrides, George A. Peterson's Field Guide: Trees and Shrubs. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN: 0395175798

Priest, Winston. Insect World. Time-Life Books. ISBN: 089448416

Rotter, Charles. An Enduring Spirit: The Prairie. Creative Education. ISBN: 1583410295

Ruis, Maria and Jim Parramon. Habitats: Life Underground. Barron's Publishing. ISBN: 0812038622

Silver, Donald M. One Small Square: Cave. Learning Triangle Press. ISBN: 0070579296

Taylor, Barbara. Young Discoveries: Rivers and Oceans. Kingfisher. ISBN: 0753455080

Wallace, Marianne. America's Prairies and Grasslands. Fulcrum Publishing. ISBN: 1555919928

## **Other Teaching Resources**

Environmental Kids Club  
<http://www.epa.gov/kids/>

Field Trip Earth  
<http://www.fieldtripearth.org/index.xml>

FirstGov for Kids  
[http://www.kids.gov/k\\_plants.htm](http://www.kids.gov/k_plants.htm)

Forest Reserves  
[http://www.ccfpd.org/teacher\\_resources.htm](http://www.ccfpd.org/teacher_resources.htm)

Habitats from the Ground Up (PDF file)  
<http://www.fieldmuseum.org/ceep/PDFs/01-03.pdf>

Habitats of the Great Lakes Region  
<http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/air-land/habitat.html>

Habitats of the World  
<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/habitats/>

Illinois Department of Natural Resources: Guide Sheets on Furbearing Animals (beaver, fox, etc.)  
[http://www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife/what\\_is.htm](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife/what_is.htm)

Illinois Ecosystems  
<http://www.chias.org/www/edu/mitc/teeeco.html>

Illinois State Museum's MuseumLink-Illinois: Web Resources on Illinois Prairies and Forests  
[www.museum.state.il.us/muslink](http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink)

Illinois State Museum's Of Time and the River: Illinois River Resources  
<http://www.oftimeandtheriver.org/>

Illinois State Museum: State Symbols. Information and game about Illinois' state animal, bird, insect, fish, etc. <http://www.museum.state.il.us/exhibits/symbols/>

Just for Kids  
<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/kids/index.html>

Kid's Corner  
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/kids/index.html>

Kid's Link

<http://www.nrdc.org/reference/kids.asp>

Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation

<http://www.mcgrawwildlife.org/main.taf?p=3,3>

Missouri Botanical Garden

<http://www.mbgnet.net/>

National Geographic: Habitats

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction/habitats/games.html>

Neighborhoods

<http://www.fi.edu/tfi/units/life/habitat/habitat.html>