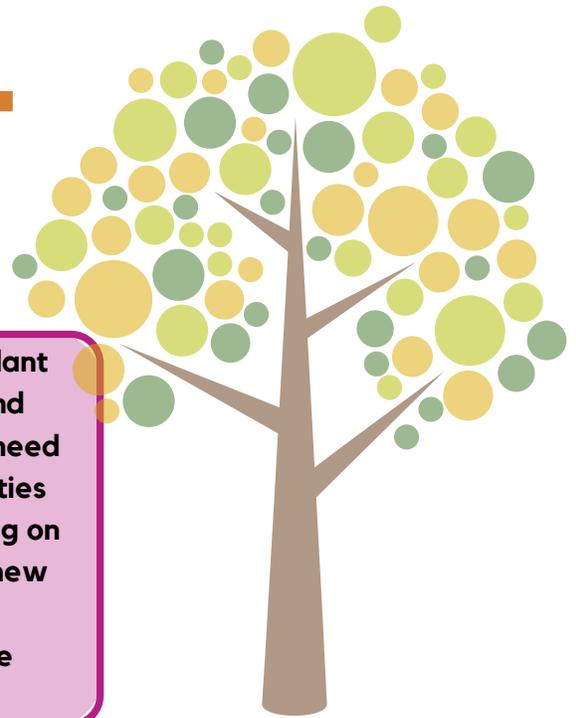




# HABITAT



## OVERVIEW

A **habitat** is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism. Habitats are as varied as oceans to deserts and forests to swamps. In order to survive in their home, animals need all kinds of special adaptations. **Adaptations** are special abilities animals have to thrive in their habitat. These can be something on their body (like claws) or how that animal acts (moving to a new place in the winter).

Travel across the globe with us as we explore many unique habitats!

## PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### YOUNGER KIDS

#### Camouflage Chameleon

Color the chameleon (on the 3rd page) any color you want.

Should the chameleon have stripes, spots, be all one color? What colors might help the chameleon blend in around your home?

After you have finished coloring the chameleons, take the chameleon around to different places inside or out to see where it blends in best!

### OLDER KIDS

#### Human Adaptations

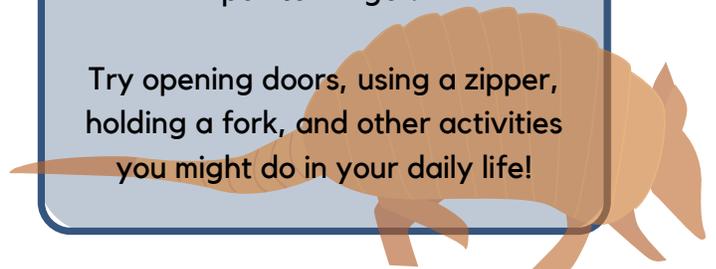
Humans live in so many different habitats. What allows people to spread out so well across the world?

What physical adaptations do we have to let us survive the cold, hot, rocky, wooded or even desert habitats?

Besides our brain, one of our best adaptations are our thumbs!

See what your life would be like without your thumbs. Have an adult tape your thumbs to the side of your pointer finger.

Try opening doors, using a zipper, holding a fork, and other activities you might do in your daily life!





# HABITAT



## POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### YOUNGER KIDS

#### Backyard Ecosystem

Take a white or a light-colored sheet outside and lay it on the ground, under a tree. You can use towels or an old t-shirt, too. Shake the branches lightly to see what comes out.

Are there seeds? Are there leaves? Is there pollen? Are there bugs? Why do you think there are more bugs in one place versus another? If you did this during the autumn, what would fall onto the sheet? (This is a great chance to talk about seasons.)

Once you have a little pile of objects on the sheet, try to build a habitat out of them.

Does it have everything that an animal would need to survive?

What type of animal would live here?

Tell a partner!

**KEEP GOING TO  
THE NEXT PAGE  
FOR THE  
CHAMELEON  
COLORING  
PAGE!**

### OLDER KIDS

#### Pinecone Bird Feeder

Provide food to your local wildlife in your own backyard habitat!

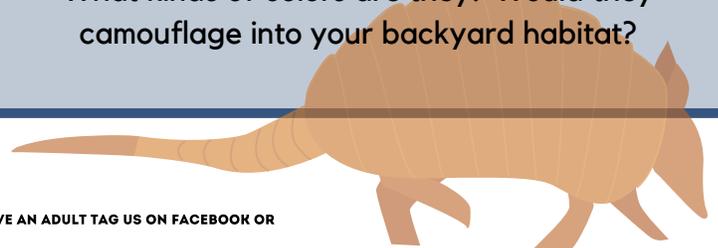
#### Materials

Pinecone (not scented or decorated)  
String  
Peanut butter or honey  
Bird seed

#### Directions

1. Go outside and find a pinecone. Be careful some have tiny thorns! If you can't find a pinecone just use an old toilet paper tube. Either of these will biodegrade over time.
2. Tie the string around the top rows of the pinecone.
3. Use a butter knife or a spoon to cover the pinecone in peanut butter or honey. Make sure to get into all the crevices of the pinecone!
4. Roll the covered pinecone in bird seed, sunflower seeds, peanuts, or safflower seeds. Make sure everything is raw, not roasted or flavored.
5. With the help of an adult, use the string to lift up the pinecone, hang it from a tall place in your backyard.

What kinds of birds do you see visiting your feeder?  
What kinds of colors are they? Would they camouflage into your backyard habitat?



TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR ADVENTURE WITH THE SAC ZOO AND HAVE AN ADULT TAG US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM!



# HABITAT

