



Animal Habitat Safari

<p>Activity Instruction</p>  <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qVakg3Uj0fAaWXXKlpKQW2hianoszcBm/view?usp=sharing</p>	<p>Video Instructions</p>  <p>https://youtu.be/jb2qfo0coKY</p>	<p>Flip Summary</p>  <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bBrpigO3I5gQFn-b8V2nSICfZ0m9UEbe/view?usp=sharing</p>
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DESCRIPTION: During this lesson, your PreK and Kindergarten students will engage in learning about various animals and their natural habitats from self-chosen informational books and then demonstrate their new knowledge and vocabulary by creating those habitats through various forms of self-directed play, collaboration, language, visual art, and technology! With adult assistance, your young learners will use a virtual green screen app and answer questions about key details from developmentally appropriate informational text.

AMOUNT OF TIME: 30-45 minutes

**This lesson could be a one-time activity if needed, or could also be separated into a week-long thematic unit.*

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Teacher Materials:
 - Tote bag or backpack with these items inside: binoculars, elephant stuffed animal, bumble bee stuffed animal, elephant informational book, bee informational book
 - Ipad with Flip app



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- Student Materials:
 - Variety of animal informational books
 - Variety of stuffed animals from selected informational books
 - Construction paper - all colors
 - Pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils
 - *Optional Art Materials Needed:*
 - *Water color paint*
 - *Tape or Glue*
 - *Scissors*
 - *Cardboard*
 - *Brown paper bags*
 - *Felt of all colors*
 - *Tissue paper*
- Video of more instructions on how to use a green screen app in elementary grades:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkSd5dtlkaQ>

OBJECTIVE(S):

1. Students will be able to tell facts related to the animal they chose from the informational books.
2. Students will be able to use a variety of art materials to create an animal habitat.
3. Students will use a technology tool to record a video to describe their animal and their habitat.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI K.1
With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- National Core Arts Standards.VA:Cr1.1.PKa
Engage in self-directed play with materials.
- National Core Arts Standards.VA:Cr2.1.PKa
Use a variety of art making tools
- International Society for Technology in Education Standards for Students, Empowered Learner: 1.1b Customized Learning Environments
Students build networks and customize their learning environments in ways that support the learning process.

STEPS TO COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY:



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1. Invite students to your whole group sitting area carpet. Tell students that we get to play and pretend that we are on an animal **safari**! As you put on your safari bag, ask students if they know what a safari is and then help explain the definition.
2. To help create a playful learning environment, you can ask students to help you put their chairs in rows of 3 to create a pretend safari **jeep**. Explain what a jeep is and why we will need that type of vehicle to go through different **environments** such as land that is rocky, sandy, etc. Ask if they know of any other examples of environments we might go through to see different animals. As students are getting in the jeep, remind them to buckle up for safety and keep their pretend **binoculars** ready. Ask students if they can explain what binoculars are and if they have ever used them and why. Pull out your teacher binoculars to let them touch and view which will help scaffold their learning and understanding.
3. Build anticipation by telling students their first animal they will see is a very BIG animal and ask what they think it could be. Prompt with other clues if needed. Pull out the elephant stuffed animal from your bag and show students. They may want to pull out their pretend binoculars to look at it! Allow students to call on their own background knowledge and ask them if they know what kind of environments an elephant would live in? After they help answer, explain that these environments are their **habitats**, which is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. Pull out your elephant informational book and read a few pages to teach key facts about animals. (Do not read the entire book at this time).
4. Tell students to wave goodbye to the elephant and then repeat step 3 with the bumble bee.
5. Help students put chairs back and meet at the carpet area again.
6. Ask students if they can remember and describe facts and **characteristics** of the elephant and its natural habitat. Explain that an elephant characteristic or fact could be what they look like, where they live, and what they eat.
7. Repeat step 6 with the bumble bee.
8. Tell students that they get to choose an animal they want to learn about from a book and create that animal's natural habitat using art supplies (drawing a picture, building something like grass, rocks, etc.).
9. Tell students after they create their habitat they can play in the habitat with their stuffed animal and book! Explain that they are going to be their animal's expert and teach you about their animal and their habitat by making a video with you on the ipad. Explain to students that they can work with a partner and invite friends to play with them when they are ready. Be prepared to help facilitate this part as needed, depending on the social levels/strengths of students.
10. You will walk around the classroom as students are working on their creations and then when they are finished, you can go to them to choose their green screen and video them



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as you ask questions about their animal. At the end of the day, or on a separate day, you can go on another pretend safari as you watch all their habitat videos.

VOCABULARY:

Safari- a journey to observe animals in their natural habitats

Jeep- a vehicle used to drive through tough environments

Environments - the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.

Binoculars - a tool used to help see objects that are far away

Habitat- the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

Characteristics - a special feature about something