

## Kindergarten – Habitat /Living vs. Non-living Lesson

What is a **habitat**? A home for *living organisms*! YOU are all living **organisms** and you live in a home, which is your habitat, and when you go to school Haldane is part of your habitat too. Even Cold Spring is part of the bigger habitat you live in!

The garden is a habitat or home for plants, animals, and insects. Within the garden there are even smaller ‘mini’ habitats or places where living organisms find places to live.

There are also *non-living things* in the garden too! How do we know if something we see in the garden is living or not living?

Living things.... grow, **reproduce**, and need food, air, and water.

What do PEOPLE need to live and grow?

Food (energy), water, shelter, air, friends/family (other people)

Non-living things do not grow or need food, air and water.

Let’s break into pairs: Each pair will choose an index card and decide which thing on the card is living or nonliving. Then see if you can find an example of the nonliving thing, and try to find or create a mini habitat for the living thing! Where might that living organism make its home in the garden?

*(make index cards with pictures of living/non-living things – some things that appear nonliving (seeds!) are alive but dormant – waiting to germinate! Some things may have once been living (pine cone! Wood! Even plastic from oil from ancient living matter....)*

| <b>Living:<br/>(all spotted before in the garden!)</b> | <b>Non-living:<br/>(all things visible in garden)</b> |
|--|---|
| worm   | Water (are living things in it?)                      |
| butterfly  | Dirt/Compost (are living things in it?)               |
| bee  | Wood (was it once living?)                            |
| Beetle/bug   | Shell (was it once living?)                           |
| tree   | brick   |
| snake  | Cloud   |
| ants   | Sun   |
| bird   | Rock/stone  |
| roly poly (pill bug)                                   | Sidewalk  |
| squirrel   | plastic   |
| deer   | Glass   |
| cat  | Chalk   |
| frog/toad  | sand  |
| caterpillar  | Bamboo stake (was it once living?)                    |
| spider   | Pine cone (was it once living?)                       |
| grass  | Metal (nail, can)                                     |
| flower   | Seeds (could they grow into a plant?)                 |

[http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.colt.lp\\_living/living-vs-nonliving/](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.colt.lp_living/living-vs-nonliving/)

## **Vocabulary:**

**habitat** – a special place where a plant or animal lives.

from <http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/season10/habitat/facts.cfm>

Just like you have a home or place to live, so do animals and plants. When we talk about an animal's or a plant's home it is more like a neighborhood than a "house." An animal needs five things to survive in its habitat:

- food
- water
- shelter
- air
- a place to raise its young/reproduce

Animals require different amounts of space. Habitats can be big like a forest or they can be much smaller like a burrow. Some animals defend a huge territory or roam over a large area. Some other animals need only a small amount of space and can put up with neighbors that live close.

Just like you have to go to the store to get food, an animal leaves its "shelter" to get the things they need to live. Different animals need different habitats. A fish, for example, needs clean water in which to live. A grasshopper, however, needs a big space where it can hop and leaves that it can eat.

**organism** – a living thing that has (or can develop) the ability to act or function independently

**to reproduce; reproduction** – the process by which plants and animals create 'copies' of themselves, by making seeds or babies

*\*\*Note: for this lesson you might have to 'plant' some items in the garden for kids to find like shells, sand, a piece of glass or metal or plastic bag, chalk, etc.*