



## Everyone Needs a Habitat

Every animal species both domestic and wild needs a healthy habitat. All habitats are made up of Food, Water, Shelter and Space in a Suitable Arrangement. The first four components are easy for students to understand, the fifth, suitable arrangement, maybe a more difficult concept for younger students. One way to explain arrangement to students is to discuss our own needs. We don't drive two hours each way to do our grocery shopping, nor do we walk to the river to get a bucket of water each day. A deer mouse has the same needs, if it must cross an open field to get to a food source, it could easily be grabbed and eaten by a hawk. All life must be able to access habitat components without expending too much effort or putting itself in danger.

On the puzzle pieces below; label each piece one of the habitat components *food, water, shelter, space* and *suitable arrangement*. Cut out the puzzle and challenge your student to put it back together. Later glue another puzzle square on the back of a picture of an animal and cut it out for your student. With the animal's picture it is easy to put the puzzle back together forming a habitat for the animal.

Note: this activity supports the second grade Science SOL 2.5 about habitats.

