



Critter Characteristics & Habitats

Outdoor Classroom Field Journal Activity Lesson Plans & Resources

Online Lesson Plans & Resources: <https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-activity-critter-characteristics-habitats/>

Students look for a bird, insect, amphibian, reptile or mammal in the outdoor classroom, record its features, and then describe its habitat. Afterwards, they discuss how and why different animals were found in different places in the outdoor classroom.

Example Discussion Questions & Answers (online as an Interactive PowerPoint or PDF)

Q: What are living things?

A: *Things that breathe, eat, grow and reproduce (such as plants and animals).*

Q: What are the different types of animals? How do we classify or categorize them?

A: *To categorize or classify animals you need to think about the characteristics that they share and how they are different. Example characteristics that can be used to classify or categorize animals include spines, skin coverings, how they breathe, how they give birth, number of legs, number of eyes, wings, size, etc.*

Q: Do all animals live in the same habitat? What is different about the habitats (homes) where these animals live?

A: *No, different animals live in different types of habitat. Fish like bream and bass live in aquatic habitats like freshwater lakes or rivers, marine fish like red snapper live in saltwater oceans, hawks and owls live in or near woodlands or fields, butterflies and bees are found around nectar-producing flowers, frogs and salamanders live around freshwater creeks or ponds, and lizards and snakes can be found near woodlands and rock outcroppings where they can bask in the sun.*

Q: What types of wildlife could we see in our outdoor classroom? Insects? Birds? Reptiles? Amphibians? Mammals? Fish? Other Invertebrates?

A: *Insects may be butterflies, beetles, bees, etc. Birds could include songbirds, hawks, owls, etc. Reptiles include turtles, snakes and lizards. Amphibians may include frogs, toads or salamanders. Fish could be freshwater fish such as bream. Mammals could include squirrels, bats, rabbits, etc. Other invertebrates could include worms, millipedes, centipedes, spiders, etc.*

