

Lesson 5: Animals Need Forests Too

NUTSHELL

In this lesson – located in the classroom, schoolyard, or other open space large enough to play Musical Needs – students explore what the forest provides for its animal residents. Cooperatively, students create a forest ecosystem with their classmates. Finally, they enter the forest as animals in search of food, water, shelter, and space.

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

- Forests impact air and water quality, prevent soil erosion, and provide habitat for wildlife.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- What resources do forests provide to animals to meet their need for habitat?

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify the basic needs of animals (food, water, shelter, space, air).
- Recognize that forests must contain all the basic needs of an animal for it to live there
- Draw ways forests provide homes for animals.

SUBJECT AREAS

Arts, Science

LESSON/ACTIVITY TIME

Total Lesson Time: 100 minutes

- Introduction30 minutes
- Activity 125 minutes
- Activity 225 minutes
- Conclusion20 minutes

STANDARDS CONNECTIONS

Standards for this lesson can be viewed online at the LEAF website (www.leafprogram.org).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What are your **basic needs**? We all have them. Do you need air conditioning? Cable television? Internet service? Would you list easy access to a shopping center and a good Chinese restaurant among your needs? Odds are that many of the things on our needs list might not truly be needs. Although we seem a great deal distanced from the white-tailed deer, red squirrel, and pileated woodpecker of Wisconsin's forests, when the excess is cleared away, we all still have to meet the same basic needs. All animals – humans included – need to meet five basic needs to survive: food, water, shelter, space, and air.

Forest animals have to have enough **space** to meet their other basic needs. Wolves, foxes, and bears all have territories that they live in. The amount of space that is included in these territories is important in terms of social interactions and the amount of resources within that territory. Too many animals in an area competing for resources means that some won't survive. A representation of the human need for space is urban sprawl. In Wisconsin, we have space in which to spread our larger cities and suburbs. The cost at which this comes is quite frequently the loss of space for animals. The urban interface refers to the area where wild lands (and the animals living in them) and human developments meet. With this decrease in space, animals adjust and adapt, frequently to the chagrin of their new neighbors.