

### Overview:

This lesson plan is designed for preschoolers aged 3-6 and focuses on the book "A Tree is a Home" by Pamela Hickman. The lesson aims to introduce children to the concept of habitats and the importance of trees as homes for various animals. Through interactive activities and discussions, children will enhance their understanding of the natural world and develop empathy towards animals and their environments.

### Materials:

- "A Tree is a Home" by Pamela Hickman
- Large pictures or illustrations of different animals and their habitats
- Art supplies (paper, crayons, markers, glue, scissors)
- Nature items (leaves, twigs, rocks, etc.)
- Animal puppets or stuffed animals representing animals from the book
- Chart paper and markers

### Introduction:

Start the lesson by gathering the children in a circle and introducing the book "A Tree is a Home." Show them the cover of the book and ask what they think the book might be about. Explain that the book is about different animals and their homes in trees. Discuss why trees are important for animals and how trees provide shelter, food, and protection. Engage the children in a brief discussion about their own homes and what they need to feel safe and comfortable.

### Activities:

#### 1. Read Aloud (15 minutes):

- Read the book "A Tree is a Home" aloud to the children.
- Encourage them to observe the detailed illustrations and ask questions if they have any.
- Pause during the reading to discuss the different animals and their habitats.

#### 2. Animal Habitat Art (20 minutes):

- Provide art supplies and ask the children to choose one animal from the book.
- Instruct the children to create a habitat for their chosen animal using drawings and collage materials.
- Encourage them to think about the specific features and elements that their chosen animal requires in its home.

#### 3. Nature Walk (15 minutes):

- Take the children on a nature walk around the school or local area.
- Encourage them to observe trees and look for signs of animal habitats, such as nests, holes, or animal tracks.
- Collect different natural materials, like leaves or twigs, to use in a later activity.

#### 4. Animal Puppet Show (15 minutes):

- Use animal puppets or stuffed animals representing different animals from the book.

- Create a simple puppet show where the animals talk about their homes in trees and the importance of trees for their survival.
- Prompt the children to interact with the puppets and ask questions about the animals' habitats.

#### Closure:

Gather the children in a circle and discuss what they have learned about animals and their habitats. Ask questions like "Why are trees important for animals?", "What did you discover during the nature walk?", and "What did you enjoy most about the book?"

Encourage the children to share their favorite parts of the lesson and what they would like to learn more about in the future.

#### Extension Activities:

1. Habitat Diorama: Provide shoeboxes, art supplies, and animal figures for the children to create habitat dioramas for different animals.
2. Animal Research: Assign each child an animal from the book and ask them to research and present additional information about their animal's habitat, food, and habits.
3. Tree Exploration: Take the children on a tree exploration walk, examining different types of trees and comparing their characteristics and habitats.
4. Environmental Awareness Collage: Create a collective collage with the natural materials collected during the nature walk, highlighting the importance of trees and habitats for animals.

#### Assessment Objectives:

##### 1. Social-Emotional:

- Demonstrates empathy towards animals and their habitats
- Shows curiosity and motivation during group activities

##### 2. Physical:

- Demonstrates fine-motor skills during the art activity
- Participates in the nature walk and shows interest in the environment

##### 3. Language:

- Listens to and follows directions during the read-aloud and puppet show
- Uses language to describe animals and their habitats during discussions and art activities

##### 4. Cognitive:

- Demonstrates curiosity and asks questions about animals and their habitats
- Recognizes and recalls information about animals' homes and their importance

#### Assessment Methods:

Observations will be made throughout the lesson to assess the children's social-emotional interactions, physical abilities, language skills, and cognitive engagement. The teacher will listen to the children during discussions and assess their

understanding. Additionally, the artwork created by the children can provide insight into their comprehension of animal habitats. Assessment results will inform teaching practices by identifying areas where additional support or extension activities may be required.