



Habitat Happenings

What to Expect: A 50-minute program about different kinds of habitats and their locations throughout the world, as well as live animal representatives from some of those habitats

Education Standards:

Next Generation Science Standards: **ES S3.A, L S1.A, L S1.C, L S3.B, L S4.C, L S4.D**

Books to Read:

I See a Kookaburra! Steve Jenkins, Robin Page

The Magic School Bus in the Rainforest, Eva Moore

DK Eyewitness—Ecology, Brian Lane

Before Your Zoomobile Visit: Prepare students for the program by reminding them that animals need 3 things to survive in their habitat: food, water, and shelter.

What you will need:

- Scissors
- Tape
- An Activity Page for each student, printed double-sided

What to do:

1. Print enough copies of the Activity Page (double-sided) for each student to have one.
2. Ask students to follow the directions on the handout.
3. There are several ways to play with the dice. Two examples are listed below, but feel free to come up with your own variations.
 - a. Students can compete head-to-head. Each student takes a turn rolling a die, and the first student to get **food** (berries or worm), **water**, and **shelter** (nest) wins! The **cat** (predator) tile resets the resources of the student that rolls it, while the **robin** tile does not count for anything.
 - b. Students can compete as a group by attempting to roll their **food**, **water**, and **shelter** tiles within 6 rolls. Anyone who rolls the **cat** loses the round, but every survivor proceeds to the next round. Last one standing wins!

Program Tie-In: Shortly before the program, ask students to remember what animals need in their habitats. During the program, we will discuss different kinds of habitats and the animals found in those



habitats, and students may be asked where they think that animals find their food, water, and shelter in their habitats.

After Your Zoomobile Visit: Humans are animals too, and we need many of the same things as other animals in order to survive. Ask students to compare the ways that humans and other animals survive in similar habitats.

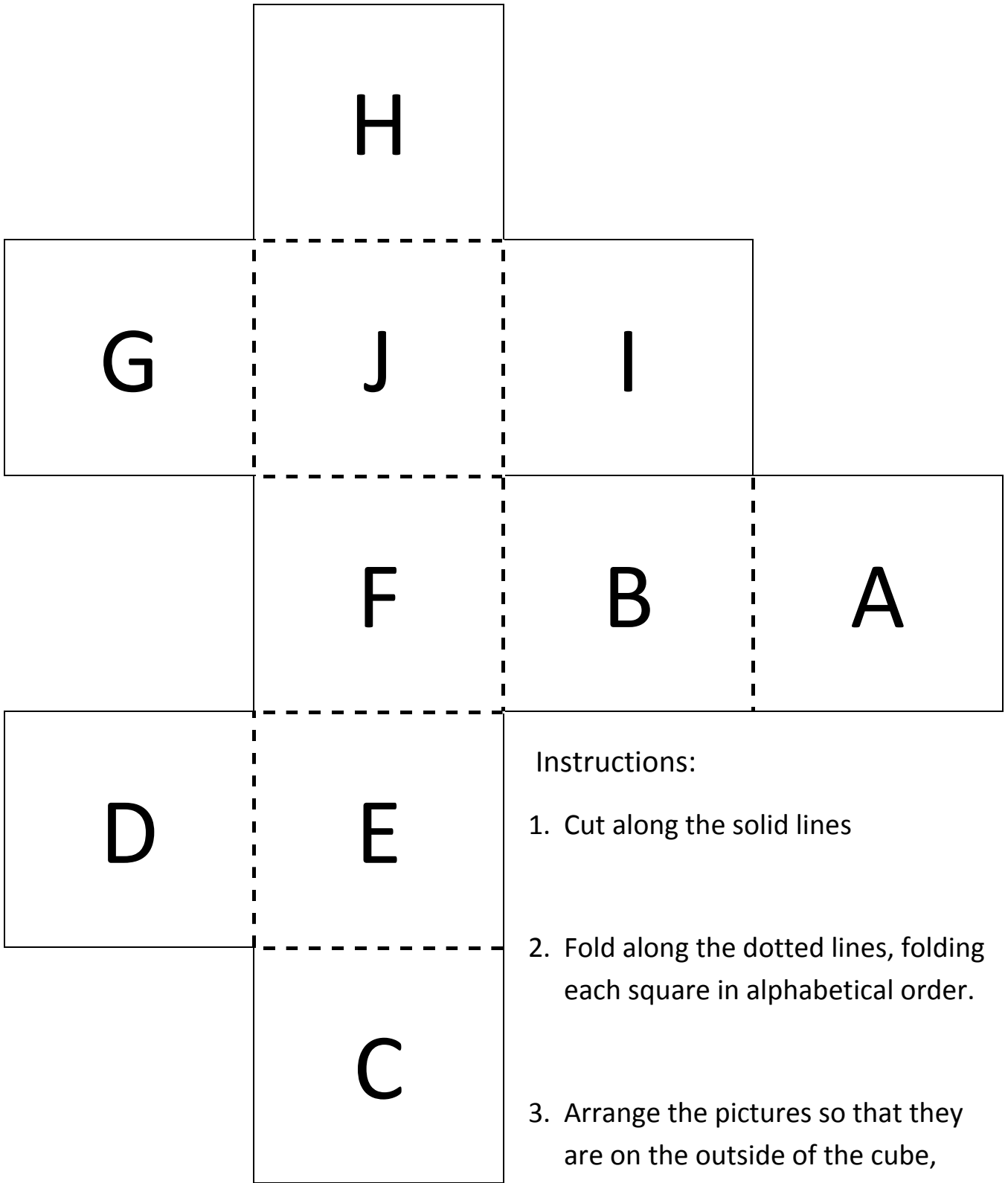
Ask each student do the following:

1. Pick an animal that he or she likes.
2. Write down what kind of habitat the animal lives in, and how it gets food, water, and shelter in that habitat.
3. Find a country in which that animal species lives. Find a group of people who live in that same country and habitat, and then research and write down two kinds of food those people eat, where they get their water, and what kind of shelter they use.
4. Compare the animal and the humans on a large poster board that includes at least 5 images

Display the completed posters in your classroom, and give students time to move around and explore the posters created by other students.

Conservation Step: There are many ways we can help make local habitats more hospitable for animals by helping to provide the food, water, and shelter the animals need to survive. One easy craft is to create a “toad abode.” Toads provide a benefit to humans by eating pesky insects, but creating a shelter for them is very simple and cheap. Simply purchase a small clay planter pot, and decorate the sides with non-toxic paint. Near a damp place, bury the pot on its side halfway to create a suitable shelter for a toad! You can even upgrade the toad abode with a small layer of leaf litter inside and a shallow saucer mostly buried near the abode to provide a small pool. There are many other simple conservations steps that can be taken to help native species—visit marylandzoo.org to learn more.

Moving Forward: Promote learning about cultural differences and how they reflect the history of a culture and the environment in which it developed. Encourage students to look at how human societies act as a way of coping with their environment, and relate it to the behaviors of animals as ways to react with their own environments. You can also visit the Zoo with your class to further apply what they have learned. Maryland students on field trips receive free admission to the Zoo under our field trip program. For more information and to request a field trip reservation, visit <http://www.marylandzoo.org/edzoocation/school-programs/field-trip-guidelines/>.



Instructions:

1. Cut along the solid lines
2. Fold along the dotted lines, folding each square in alphabetical order.
3. Arrange the pictures so that they are on the outside of the cube,

