

A STEM in the Park Take Home Activity

STEM in the PARK

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Exploring Habitats

What You Need

- Pencil, pen or marker
- A copy of this activity card
- Hand lenses
- Camera , binoculars (optional)



What To Do

Make a list of what could be living in your backyard. Some of the animals may be very small, such as an ant. Larger animals may also be using your yard as their habitat, such as a raccoon. List the animals that you have seen or heard. Or you might find have seen signs the animals left behind such as a feather, nest or tracks.

Observe...

Go outside to your backyard and look for the animals on your list. Use the chart to help you record your field observations. Add any new animals that were not on your original list. Think about what your yard provides that helps these animals survive.

Continued on back

Animal	Seen/Heard	Other Signs	Food Source	Water Source	Shelter/space
Robin	both	nest	worms	bird bath	tree

Learn...

What is a habitat? The place where plants and animals live in their natural state is called a habitat. The four elements that animals need to survive are food, water, air and shelter/space. Your backyard may provide the needs for many of our native species. Not all animals would find their needs met in your backyard. Some animals can live in more than one type of habitat, but some animals have special needs and can only survive in a specific habitat. That is why it is important that we protect areas where our native animals live and make sure that they have the food, water, air and shelter/space they need to survive.

Investigate...

Visit one or more of the Metroparks to explore different habitats. There are many types of habitats - woods, meadows, streams, wetlands, and sand dunes, just to name a few. Make a list of the animals you observe in a habitat different from your backyard and compare your findings.

This activity is brought to you Metroparks of Toledo Area



METROPARKS
TOLEDO AREA
Your Clean, Safe, Natural Places To Be