ANIMALS AND HABITATS

Activity Pack -- FREE Resource

Ages 5-8 | No Prior Reading Required
Classroom, Library and Home Use

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Where Do They Live?

In Africa, animals live in many habitats: the golden savannah, the green jungle, fast rivers and dark caves. A **habitat** is the place where an animal finds food, water and shelter.

Activity 1: Match the Habitat

Tick the habitat where each animal was found.

Animal	Savannah	Jungle	River
Giraffe	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Hippo	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Monkey	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Meerkat	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Leopard	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Elephant	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Activity 2: What Do Animals Need?

Tick what every animal needs to live. Cross what it doesn't need.

Thing	Needs it	Doesn't need it
Food	[ ]	[ ]
Water	[ ]	[ ]
Shelter	[ ]	[ ]
A toy	[ ]	[ ]
Air	[ ]	[ ]

Think About It

* How does a giraffe's long neck help it find food?

* Why does a hippo keep only its eyes and ears above the water?

Count the Marks

A treasure riddle says: 'Count the marks to claim your own.' Explorers need to count carefully. Let's count!

Activity 1: Continue the Pattern

Draw or write what comes next.

Pattern	Next
|, ||, |||, ||||,	_____
2, 4, 6, 8,	_____
5, 10, 15, 20,	_____
swirl, heart, swirl, heart, swirl,	_____

Activity 2: Safari Sums

1. 4 elephants and 3 giraffes. How many animals? _____

2. 6 birds were in a tree. 2 flew away. How many are left? _____

3. A monkey tossed 2 fruits, then 3 more. How many fruits? _____

4. Two explorers each chose 1 gem. How many gems altogether? _____

Think About It

* Why is it important to count carefully on an adventure?

* Make up your own counting pattern. What comes next?

Explorer's Kit and Treasure Map

Good explorers pack carefully: binoculars, a magnifier, a compass, a water flask, a first-aid kit and a torch. Then they follow a map that shows the way.

Activity 1: Pack the Kit

Tick what an explorer should pack. Cross what they don't need.

Item	Pack it	Leave it
Compass	[ ]	[ ]
First-aid kit	[ ]	[ ]
Binoculars	[ ]	[ ]
A television	[ ]	[ ]
Water flask	[ ]	[ ]
Torch	[ ]	[ ]

Activity 2: Draw a Treasure Map

DRAW A MAP WITH A SAVANNAH, A JUNGLE, A RIVER AND AN X FOR THE TREASURE:

Add a compass: mark N for north at the top.

Think About It

* Why does an explorer need a compass?

* What would you add to your explorer's kit? Why?

Brave Together

Note to students:
This worksheet explores personal feelings. There are no right or wrong answers -- your thoughts are your own. Sharing is always optional. If any question brings up big feelings, please talk with a trusted adult.

Sometimes we have to do something that feels scary, like crossing a fast river or trying something new. Taking a steady breath and doing it together can help.

Activity 1: Feeling Check-In

Circle the words that show how you feel.

When I try something scary, I feel:
Nervous Brave Shaky Excited Other: _____

When a friend helps me, I feel:
Safe Happy Thankful Strong Other: _____

When I go somewhere new, I feel:
Curious Worried Excited Shy Other: _____

Activity 2: Friends Helped Me Be Brave

DRAW A TIME SOMEONE HELPED YOU BE BRAVE:

Who helped me: _____

Think About It

* What could you say to yourself before doing something scary?

* How can you help a friend feel brave?

The Richest Treasure

Some treasure you can hold in your hand, like gems. Other treasure lives in your heart, like friendship and courage. Which kind do you think lasts longest?

Activity 1: Hand or Heart?

Tick whether each treasure is one you hold in your hand or in your heart.

Treasure	In my hand	In my heart
A shiny gem	[ ]	[ ]
A good friend	[ ]	[ ]
Being brave together	[ ]	[ ]
A bag of gold coins	[ ]	[ ]
Someone helping you	[ ]	[ ]

Activity 2: Thank Your Helpers

Who has helped you? Write a thank-you.

Thank you, _____, for _____

Thank you, _____, for _____

Think About It

* Why might someone take only one small gem instead of handfuls?

* What is the best treasure you have ever shared with a friend?

My Adventure Team Goals

Curiosity, teamwork and friendship make the best maps. Here is a challenge: be a curious explorer and a great teammate this week.

Activity 1: My Adventure Goals

Write or draw one goal for each time.

Goal Tier	My Goal	How I Will Do It	When I Will Start
THIS WEEK			
THIS TERM			
THIS YEAR			

Activity 2: Adventure Team Tracker

Colour a star each day you do it.

I did it!	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
I learned about an animal	*	*	*	*	*
I helped a friend	*	*	*	*	*
I was brave and tried something new	*	*	*	*	*
I shared something	*	*	*	*	*
I said thank you to a helper	*	*	*	*	*

Think About It

* Which animal would you like to learn more about?

* Write your own explorer motto in 10 words or fewer.

Teacher's Companion

No Prior Reading Required
This pack is fully standalone. No book or characters are referenced. Any student can complete these worksheets without prior reading. Suitable for classroom, library, and home learning programmes. This pack is an excerpt of a full book-specific learning pack available with purchase at **learningsmart.au**

Australian Curriculum Alignment

Learning Area	Strand	Year Level	Content Description (summary)
Science	Biological Sciences	F-Yr 2	Living things have basic needs and live in different habitats (WS1)
Mathematics	Number and Algebra	F-Yr 2	Continue patterns; add and subtract within 10 (WS2)
HASS	Geography	F-Yr 2	Represent places on simple maps with features and directions (WS3)
Design and Technologies	Design Processes	F-Yr 2	Choose equipment for a purpose (WS3)
Health and PE	Personal, Social and Community Health	F-Yr 2	Identify feelings and ways to be brave with others (WS4)
Gen. Capabilities	Personal and Social Capability	F-Yr 2	Cooperate, share and show gratitude (WS5, WS6)
Gen. Capabilities	Critical and Creative Thinking	F-Yr 2	Sort and classify ideas (WS1, WS5)

16 Key Animals and Habitats Lessons

#	Lesson
1	A habitat is where an animal finds food, water and shelter.
2	The savannah is a grassland with tall grass and few trees.
3	Elephants, lions, giraffes and meerkats live on the savannah.
4	Jungles are thick forests full of birds, monkeys and vines.
5	Hippos spend much of their day in rivers.
6	A giraffe's long neck helps it reach leaves high in the trees.
7	Leopards often rest in trees, watching quietly.
8	Glowworms can light up a dark cave.
9	All animals need food, water, shelter and air.
10	Wild animals deserve respect: watch from a safe distance.
11	Explorers pack carefully and use a map and compass.
12	Counting and spotting patterns helps solve puzzles.
13	Taking a steady breath can help us be brave.
14	We can do hard things together.
15	Sharing makes an adventure richer.
16	Big idea: The richest treasure is the friendship, courage and journey you share.

Answer Keys and Discussion Guidance

WS1 -- Where Do They Live? (Answers)
Savannah: giraffe, meerkat, elephant. River: hippo. Jungle: monkey, leopard (leopards can live in both). Needs: food, water, shelter, air. Doesn't need: a toy.

WS2 -- Count the Marks (Answers)
Patterns: ||||| (5 marks); 10; 25; heart. Sums: 1. 7; 2. 4; 3. 5; 4. 2.

WS3 -- Pack the Kit (Answers)
Pack: compass, first-aid kit, binoculars, water flask, torch. Leave: a television. Maps: accept any map with the four features and a compass mark.

WS4 -- Sensitivity Note for Educators
Some students may be anxious about new places or water. Do NOT require sharing. Offer drawing or private writing. If a student discloses a concern, follow your school's wellbeing and child safety protocol.

WS5 -- Hand or Heart? (Answers)
In my hand: a shiny gem; a bag of gold coins. In my heart: a good friend; being brave together; someone helping you.

WS6 -- Challenge Tracker
There are no correct scores. Celebrate every attempt; any day left blank is a chance for a gentle reminder, not correction.

Upsell Note for Educators
This generic pack is based on the Learning Smart book series. The full book-specific learning pack -- which references the characters, story moments, and adventure narrative -- is available with book purchase or subscription at **learningsmart.au**. Book-specific packs significantly increase student engagement and reading motivation.

Differentiation Strategies

Level	Strategy	Example Application
Below Level (support)	Reduce written output; use sentence starters; allow verbal responses; pair with peer.	WS1: use animal picture cards to sort into habitat hoops. WS4: use feeling faces instead of writing.
On Level (standard)	Complete all activities as written. Use discussion partner for Think About It sections.	Standard completion with class debrief of Think About It questions.
Extension (enrichment)	Research one African animal and make a fact card: habitat, food and one amazing fact.	WS3: hide a 'treasure' in the classroom and have groups follow each other's maps.

7 Discussion Questions

1. What is a habitat? Can you name a habitat near your home?
2. Which animals live on the savannah?
3. What helps you feel brave when something is scary?
4. Why should we watch wild animals from a safe distance?
5. What do you think 'the richest treasure' means?
6. How do friends help each other on an adventure?
7. If you could go on a safari, which animal would you most like to see?

Classroom Display Ideas

Habitat Map: A big map with savannah, jungle and river zones; students place animal pictures.

Explorer's Kit: A real backpack with the items from WS3 and labels.

Treasure Map Gallery: Display the WS3 treasure maps.

Pattern Trail: A floor trail of number and shape patterns to continue.

Heart Treasures: Students write a 'heart treasure' on a paper gem.

Thank-You Tree: Thank-you notes to helpers from WS5.

Want the Full Adventure?

This free activity pack is inspired by the **Learning Smart book series** -- everyday adventures about character, confidence and growing into a kind, capable leader.

The Full Book-Specific Learning Pack Includes:

* Worksheets tied directly to the book's characters and story moments
* Story-based Think About It questions that deepen reading comprehension
* A Teacher's Companion with book-specific discussion questions
* Access to the full Learning Smart resource library

Available with book purchase or subscription at:

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Books in the Learning Smart Series

Title	Topic
Safari Surprise	Animals and Habitats
The Treasure Map of Money Mountain	Financial Literacy
Professor Bee's Body Expedition	Human Body and Science
Belinda and James: Beach Smart	Sun and Water Safety
Guardians of the Web	Internet Safety
The Magical ABC Adventures: Letters A-F	Early Literacy and Phonics

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Discover, Dream, Learn -- One Adventure at a Time

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