

# First Grade / Fall Walk / At A Glance

Animals and Habitats Around Our School ☐ 30 minutes

## Goals

- Look for animals and evidence of animals in their habitats
- Identify what animals need to survive
- Explore how different habitats meet the needs of animals

## Observe and Listen

☐ 5 minutes

- Remind children they are looking for animals and evidence of animals: they must walk slowly and quietly in order to see them in their habitats

## Introduction

☐ 5 minutes

- *What animals do you think you will find living near our school?*
- *What do all living things need to survive? (6 basic needs)*
  - Air - *Is everyone breathing?*
  - Warmth - *Are you wearing a coat?*
  - Food - *Who had breakfast?*
  - Water – *How long could you last without water?*
  - Shelter - *Who woke up this morning in a house or apartment?*
  - Protection - *Is anyone's house in the middle of a highway?*
- *Where is a good place to find these things?*
  - Distribute tongue depressors to help children think about and look for the 6 basic needs.

## Explore Various Sites Around the School

☐ 30 minutes

Look for the basic needs of life

- *Food* (Berries, nuts, seeds, acorn, pine cones, larva in tree barks and galls, dead animals, prey)
- *Water* (puddles, brook, damp soil)
- *Shelter & Protection* (nests, burrows, woodpecker holes, tree bark, galls, cocoons, insect egg cases)

Turn over a rotten log and see what you can find!

Look for Evidence of Animals:

- Tracks: *What animal made these? Which way was it going (toes)? Was it Running? Hopping?*
- Scat: guess which animal based on size
- Owl Pellets: these are not scat, thrown up, found under tree

Discuss how different habitats around the school suit different animals

## Wrap up

☐ 2-3 minutes

*Think about your next walk in winter; what will happen to the animals we saw today?  
What did you discover about animals living near our school?*

This summary does not replace the Walk Guide  
Activities, their order, and duration will vary depending on your group dynamics and weather.