

It's your Niche

Subject: Science

Objective: Students will be able to define habitat and niche and create business cards for particular animals.

Materials

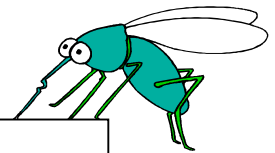
- 3" X 5" blank index cards or pieces of construction paper cut business card size
- writing and coloring materials
- animal books for researching

Procedure:

1. Review habitat with students. (food, water, shelter, and space in a suitable arrangement.) Tell students that habitat can be considered an animal's address. Explain to students that in this activity they will be not only looking at animals' addresses, but animals' jobs, as well.
2. Talk about the neighborhood the students live in. Everyone has an address and most people have jobs. The job might be a role that person plays in the community. Animals have roles in the ecosystem, or community, that they live in. This role is called the animal's ecological niche. It includes such things as where and how it gathers its food; its role in the food chain; what it gives and does for the community; its habits, periods of activity, etc. It can also be described as what an animal does for a living.
3. Allow students time to choose and research a certain Idaho animal to find out its niche and choose one thing this animal does well.
4. Their assignment will be to create a business card for that animal advertising its job in the community. To help them, you may want to bring in a few "real" business cards to look at.
5. Here are a few samples of animal business cards:

Rick Raven
Environmental Cleanup
Unlicensed, Unbonded, Uninsured
Your trash is our treasure
Call 1-800-Wise-guy

Buzz Mosquito
Plasma collector/blood sucker
123 Stick-it-to-you Lane
Everywhere, Idaho
We'll suck you drier than a vampire
Call 1-800-drink-blud



6. Business cards should include the following: name of animal, job title, company name, address, phone number, slogan and illustration or symbol for business (optional).
7. Hang business cards on your bulletin board and call it "It's your Niche."

