

Animal Cracker Connections

Purpose: 3.8(A) To explore what an animal needs to survive. Students will match animals to their specific habitats. Students will graph individual results and learn new vocabulary.

Materials Needed:

- Ideally, each student should have one box of animal crackers, however, one box per pair of students will also work.
- Paper towel on which to sort the crackers.
- Word bank to help students identify each animal cracker (the crackers can be a bit misleading).
- Habitat names and pictures (see resource information)
- Individual student graph, and class graph.

Procedures: Each student or pair of students should carefully open up their box of animal crackers to try to prevent breaking the crackers. Next, sort each of the crackers and identify the animals. The polar bear is the sitting bear and the brown bear is the one walking. Create a graph to visually represent the animals in the student's box. This will be used at a later time to create a classroom graph to compare results.

At this time, discuss with the class what each of their animals needs to live. Make a list using a few different animals. Emphasize that no matter which animal we are talking about every habitat includes food, water, and shelter needed for that animal to survive. (Example: The monkey needs trees to sleep in and the hippopotamus needs water to sleep in.)

Now, let each student match the animal with the habitat it would be found in.

What to discuss: Variety of animal habitats and human habitats. What would hurt an animal's habitat, what would help it?

Animal Cracker boxes may contain any combination of the following animals:

Polar bear (sitting), brown bear (walking), bison, camel, cougar, elephant, giraffe, gorilla, hippopotamus, kangaroo, lion, monkey, rhinoceros, seal, sheep, tiger, hyena, koala bear, zebra.

Habitats needed:

Rain Forest – gorilla, tiger, monkey,

Forest - bear

Ocean/tundra (ice berg with ocean) – polar bear, seal

Grassland – koala, kangaroo, elephant, giraffe, hyena, zebra, lion, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, sheep

Desert – camel, cougar

Have each set of student pairs make a graph to visually represent the animals in their box. Next, combine student pair information with the class to create the class graph.

