

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Animals, Environments, Sorting & Classifying

Materials List

- ✓ File folder
(Optional: Laminate the folder before use for greater durability)
- ✓ EVA foam or heavy cardstock
- ✓ Animal shapes, use mounted pictures or die cuts (die-cuts available at RAFT)
- ✓ Envelope (for animal storage)
- ✓ Permanent marker

This activity can be used to teach:

- Types of animals (CA Science Standards: Grade K, 2.0)
- Life forms in different environments & Adaptations (CA Science Standards: Grade 1, 2.a; Grade 3, 3.0)
- Sorting objects (CA Science Standards: Grade K, 4.d)

Land or Water

Where Do the Critters Live?



Primary learners can sort animals into 2 categories in this activity: those that live on the land and those that live in the water.

Assembly

1. Label an opened file folder with “Water” on one side and “Land” on the other using words and/or pictures.
2. Die-cut animal shapes from EVA foam or heavy cardstock. The table below suggests animals that fit each category.

Sample Animal shapes or pictures	
Live on Land	Live in the Water
cat	fish
rabbit	dolphin
giraffe	octopus
yak	sea horse
bird	shark

3. Optional: Code the answer on the back of each animal shape so that students may check their work.
4. Alternate assembly: Include cut-out animal pictures from old magazines.

To Do and Notice

1. Lay out the animals on a table alongside the prepared folder.
2. Optional: Sort the animals, making a best guess of where they belong.
3. Place the animals in the correct location on the file folder according to the “land or water” criteria. Determine correct locations via a code or verbal instructions.

The Science Behind the Activity

An environment is all the surrounding physical conditions that can affect the growth and survival of an organism. This includes temperature, humidity, rainfall, and the other organisms living in the environment. All organisms inhabiting a given environment create a community. Scientists refer to the largest scale communities as biomes and classify them into 5 categories: aquatic, desert, grassland, tundra, and forests. All animals on Earth must adapt to changing environments. Animals better adapted to a given environment will have a better chance for survival and reproduction, avoiding selection for extinction.

Taking it Further

- To make this activity more challenging for advanced students, include animals that are unusual or might spark questions or conversations, such as animals that live both on land and in the water either all their lives or at some stage in their lives. Good choices to add include turtles, frogs, and penguins.
- Add an extra level of difficulty by adding an “air” category so that students can include animals that fly: Beetles, bats, birds, ducks, roosters, hens, eagles, and hummingbirds.

Web Resource Information on Biomes can be found at:

www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/glossary/gloss5/biome/