

# ECO-EXPLORER



## A HABITAT ADVENTURE





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# Welcome to...

## ECO-EXPLORER



**Hey, Eco-Explorer!**

**As an Eco-Explorer, you're a young adventurer ready to discover the wonders of the world around you. During your Habitat Adventure, you get to explore different places like thick forests, deep oceans, and sunny deserts to learn about the amazing animals and plants that live there.**

**Through this adventure, you'll also learn how each of us can help take care of our planet, making sure these beautiful places and their inhabitants stay safe and healthy.**

# What does an do?



## **Explore and Discover:**

You can step outside to explore nature, like in your backyard or schoolyard, nearby parks or gardens. You can look for different plants, insects and maybe even spot some wildlife, learning about the role each one has in its habitat.



## **Become A Nature Detective:**

You look closely at the trees, flowers, bugs, and animals to find out what they do all day and how they help each other.

## **Help the Planet:**

You learn about ways to keep our Earth clean and safe, like recycling, keeping beaches and parks litter-free and using less water every day.

## **Keep A Nature Journal:**

You can draw pictures or write about the exciting things you see on your adventures. It's like being a nature scientist!

## **Share What You Learn:**

You can tell your friends, family and others about the cool things you discover and how important it is to take care of our planet.

## **Protect Our Planet**



**Being an Eco-Explorer means you are a friend to the planet. It's all about showing kindness and respect to every living thing and doing your part to help keep our Earth clean and healthy.**



# A HABITAT ADVENTURE

## ECO-EXPLORERS



**Desert Habitat: Conserving Water and Providing Shade**



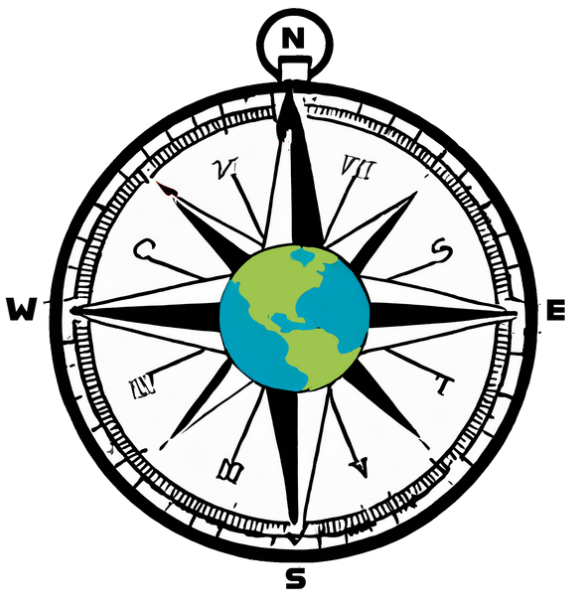
**Ocean Habitat: Keeping Our Oceans Clean**

**Forest Habitat: Protecting and Keeping Our Forests Clean**



# ECO-EXPLORER ICONS

## ECO-EXPLORER



MORE  
ECO-EXPLORER ICONS



# A Habitat Adventure

## LEARNING OUTCOME

**By the end of the "Eco-Explorers: A Habitat Adventure", children aged Pre-K through First Grade will be able to demonstrate an increased awareness and understanding of various natural habitats.**

**They will show this through participation in storytelling activities, creative play and discussions which will help them recognize the importance of different species and the roles they play in their habitats. Additionally, students will be able to express ideas on how to care for the environment, showing early signs of empathy and responsibility towards nature.**

**A HABITAT ADVENTURE takes children through these three habitats:**

- Forest Adventure: Protecting and Keeping Our Forests Clean**
- Ocean Odyssey: Keeping Our Oceans Clean**
- Desert Discovery: Conserving Water and Providing Shade**



# A Habitat Adventure

## ACTIVITY HOW-TO



### **Habitat Exploration:**

Instead of setting up physical habitats, use the stories as a springboard for discussion. Ask students to draw their favorite scene or character from the story, focusing on the habitat's features and why it's important to protect it.

### **Eco-Promise:**

Following the stories, guide students to make a simple "Eco-Promise" related to the story they heard. If a child cannot write what their Eco-Promise will be, let them draw a picture of what it will be instead.

For the forest story, they might promise to pick up litter; for the ocean story, to use less plastic; for the desert story, to save water.

### **Sharing Circle:**

Classroom: Have a sharing circle where students share their drawings and their 'Eco-Promise'.

Homeschool: Sit down on the floor with your child/ren and have them share their drawings and their 'Eco-Promise'.

This reinforces the lesson's message and allows students to learn from each other's ideas about helping to care for the environment.

# A Habitat Adventure

## IMPLEMENTATION TIPS

### Storytime:

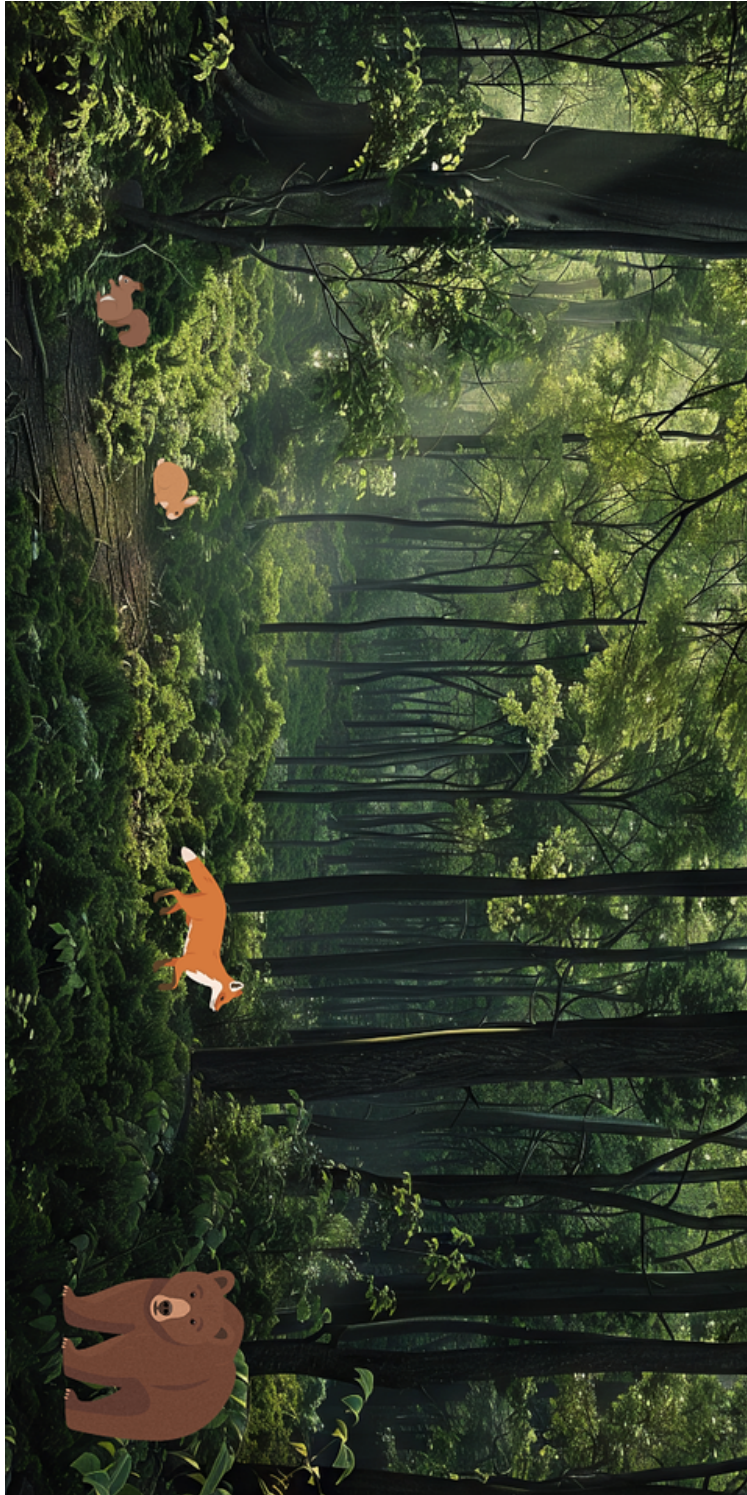
- Make the storytelling session interactive by using expressive voices, facial expressions, and even simple props or pictures to bring the stories to life.
- Print out some of the Habitat Adventure icons to hold up during the story OR give the children pictures to look at during the story. E.g, give each child an Eco-Explorer safari hat and perhaps a compass and magnifying glass to help them feel like 'explorers'.
- Print out the large illustration of each of the stories to hold up during the storytime and/or to look at, and discuss, when the story ends.

### Discussion:

- You can use the habitat illustration as a starting point.
- Encourage questions and ideas during the discussion, helping students connect the story to real-world actions they can take.
- Allow time for the children to come up with ideas on their own with as little guidance as possible from you. Remember: When a child is sharing an idea for an action they can take, give them time to think it through. There really are no right or wrong answers here; you can help them sort out their answers once they have shared by allowing them time (with your encouragement) to flesh out their idea.
- This is a fun way to help children develop their imagination and also begin to learn problem-solving skills, by asking questions such as: What would be a good way to do [that]? What do you think you could do to help the animals? What do you think the animals would like you to do?

### Follow-Up:

Consider a follow-up activity where students can share how they fulfilled their "Eco-Promise," fostering a sense of accomplishment for them, while reinforcing the importance of their actions. Even small actions can help protect the Earth and kids *can* make a difference.











# STORYTELLING KICKOFF: FOREST ADVENTURE

A Habitat Adventure



Once upon a time in a beautiful green forest filled with tall trees, was a **squirrel named Sammy**. Sammy loved to leap from tree to tree, find acorns and play hide and seek with friends. One day, Sammy discovered a really big tree that was very old and when Sammy stopped playing and hid in the tree like squirrels do, Sammy heard these words: "Protect my home and keep it clean.

Sammy looked out at the forest and noticed how many trees were in the forest...big trees and small trees. As he was looking around, he noticed that **Wilson the Woodpecker** was on a tree branch just above him.

Wilson asked," What are you looking at?" Sammy replied, "Trees are like the forest's superheroes." Wilson didn't quite understand, so he asked, "How?"

Sammy replied, "Well, you know how we breathe in air? Trees are like our big, green friends who help us breathe better. Trees do something really cool. They take in air that we've already breathed out, which isn't good for us anymore, and change it back into air that is fresh and clean for us to breathe in again. It's like they're using their leaves to catch the old air and give back new air that's good for us. Every time we breathe out, trees are there to clean it up and make the air nice for everyone.

Wilson nodded his head to show he understood.

# STORYTELLING KICKOFF: FOREST ADVENTURE

continued



Sammy continued. “Trees also give us shade on sunny days. And there’s more. When a tree has leaves that fall off and land on the ground, these leaves turn into a kind of food for the earth. This special food helps make the ground healthy for other plants to grow. Just like we need food to grow big and strong, the earth needs food, too”.

Sammy looked back to the trees and then at Wilson. “Oh, and animals like you and me make our homes in the trees. Did you know that trees feed more than just the earth? They also feed both of us with seeds and acorns that drop to the ground.”

Later on, Sammy saw pieces of trash on the ground and remembered the tree's words. He knew that trash wasn't supposed to be in the forest. It could make the ground unhealthy for plants and animals. And that means the plants wouldn't grow big and strong and the animals could get sick, if they tried to eat trash or got stuck in a plastic bag or box.

So, Sammy decided to pick up the trash, carefully collect taking it to a trash can. He wanted the forest to stay a good and healthy home for everyone.

Sammy also found lots of acorns, eating some himself and sharing them with his friends, because that’s what friends do.

***What can you do to help Sammy keep the forest clean and healthy for the trees, the animals and the plants that all live there?***



## STORYTELLING KICKOFF: FOREST ADVENTURE

### Forest Adventure: Protecting and Keeping Our Forests Clean

#### Key Lesson:

Forests are vital ecosystems that provide homes for animals like Sammy the Squirrel. Keeping them clean is crucial for the health and well-being of forest inhabitants.

#### Simple actions kids can take:

**1. Picking Up Trash:** Organize a litter picking activity in a safe, local green area. Emphasize the importance of not leaving trash behind and picking up litter to protect animal homes.

**2. Recycling:** Recycling means taking things we've used, like paper and boxes, and making them into something new instead of throwing them away. We can recycle at home or school by putting paper and cardboard in a special bin just for recycling. When we recycle paper, we help save trees because we don't need to cut down as many to make new paper. It's like giving our used paper a second chance to be useful again and that means more trees get to stay in the forest, providing homes for more animals and clean air for us.

**3. Plant a Tree:** If possible, participate in a tree-planting activity. Explain how each new tree provides more homes for forest animals and helps clean the air.

# STORYTELLING CONTINUES: OCEAN ODYSSEY

A Habitat Adventure



In the big, blue ocean, **Caroline the Clownfish** swam through colorful coral reefs, greeting all her sea friends. But Caroline noticed that her beautiful home was getting filled with strange things that didn't belong in the ocean could cause trouble for sea animals and plants. "What is all that strange stuff?" she asked her friend, Terry.

**Terry the Turtle** told her, "It's trash that comes from humans on the land. It gets left behind at beaches, dropped off boats and tossed into rivers and lakes. After a while, it all ends up here with us." "But what can we do about it?" Caroline wondered.

"When trash stays in the ocean and doesn't get cleaned up, it's like when kids don't put away their toys. Just like toys can cover the floor and make it hard to walk, so much trash in the ocean can make it hard for sea animals to swim and to find their food," Terry explained. "The sea animals could get hurt by the trash or they might try to eat it by mistake, which would make them very sick.," he added.

With the help of Terry the Turtle, the two ocean friends played a game called 'Find and Collect'. Together, they looked for things that shouldn't be in the ocean, like plastic bags and bottles and aluminum cans and fast food containers and picked up the trash. Then, they put all those items into a special trash can on the beach."

***What can you do to help Caroline and Terry keep our oceans clean and healthy for all the fish and plants that live there?***

## STORYTELLING CONTINUES: OCEAN ODYESSY

### Ocean Odyessy: Keeping Our Oceans Clean

#### Key Lesson:

The ocean is home to countless creatures and plants. Keeping the ocean free of pollution is essential for their survival.

#### Simple actions kids can take:

- Reduce plastic use:

Challenge kids to use fewer single-use plastics, like straws and water bottles, opting for reusable options instead. Discuss how this helps prevent ocean pollution.

Just like we clean our rooms to keep them nice and safe, we also need to help clean our planet. When we talk about keeping our planet clean, it means making sure harmful chemicals don't get into our rivers, oceans or air where they can hurt plants, animals and even people. Imagine if we spilled something sticky or icky on the floor and didn't clean it up. It would make our room dirty and not a nice place to play, right?

So, when we say 'try to keep our planet clean', we mean we should all help pick up trash; recycle things instead of throwing them away; and use less stuff that can turn into harmful chemicals when they end up in landfills for years and year, like plastic bottles and bags. This helps keep our Earth a nice and safe place to live, just like our clean rooms are good places for us to play.

This approach makes the concept of preventing chemical pollution more tangible by comparing it to cleaning up a mess in their personal space, emphasizing the collective responsibility and practical steps children can understand and take to help protect our planet.



## **STORYTELLING CONTINUES: OCEAN ODYSSEY**

### **More simple actions kids can take:**

- **Participate in a cleanup if you're near any water like a beach, river, lake, or stream.**

**Remember, all the water around us is on a big journey to the ocean, traveling through towns, under bridges, and through forests. Along the way, it can pick up trash along with natural things like leaves.**

**Keeping places where water flows clean is super important. This includes little streams, rivers, and even street drains. Clean water paths mean the water stays clear and clean on its journey to the ocean. This helps keep the fish and animals in the water healthy, just like how we enjoy playing in a clean park.**

**Even if you don't live near the ocean, the water in your town still ends up there. It travels from street drains to underground pipes or into rivers and streams. These are nature's highways, carrying water through cities, forests, and fields. When this water finally reaches the ocean, we want it to be clean. That's why keeping our town and water paths clean helps the ocean and sea life far away.**

# STORYTELLING CONTINUES: DESERT DISCOVERY

A Habitat Adventure



**Daisy the Desert Fox** had the softest fur and the quickest feet. She lived in a sandy desert where the sun painted the sky with very bright and beautiful colors every evening. One night, Daisy came upon a really big cactus that whispered, “Share your water and care for your friends.” That made Daisy think about how she could help her friends in the desert.

Since the desert gets very hot and water is hard to find, Daisy decided to share some of the water she had saved with plants and animals who were very thirsty.

She also learned which plants provided a little bit of shade and guided her smaller friends to these spots early in the morning, before the sun was too high. She showed them how to stay cool by being very still and not moving around during the hottest part of the day in whatever shade they could find. And then she told them to go out into the desert at night or early in the morning, when it would be cooler for them.

Daisy taught everyone that by sharing and using smart desert tricks, they each could live better in the hot desert.

**What simple acts can we do to be like Daisy in caring for our environment and the many living creatures on our planet?"**



## STORYTELLING CONTINUES: DESERT DISCOVERY

### **DESERT DISCOVERY: Conserving\* Water and Providing Shade**

**\*We use only the water we need, so there's enough for everyone, including animals and plants.**

#### **Key Lesson:**

**Deserts are environments where water is scarce and conservation is key. Sharing resources like water and shade can make a big difference.**

#### **Simple actions kids can take:**

- **Water Saving (Conservation) at Home:**

**Teach kids simple water-saving techniques, such as turning off the tap while brushing their teeth, taking shorter showers and collecting rainwater for plants.**

- **Create Shade:** Shade is really important in hot places like deserts, because it helps keep us and animals cool. Even if we can't plant trees, we can still make shady spots where we can chill out and play. Here's how:

**-Planting Trees: Trees are awesome because they grow big and spread their leaves wide to create lots of shade.**

**-Using Umbrellas: Just like we use umbrellas to stay dry when it rains, we can use them to block the sun and make a cool spot on sunny days.**

**-Setting Up Canopies or Tents: For special days outside, setting up a canopy or a tent makes a quick shady space that keeps us cool under the hot sun.**

# Wrap-Up

## **A HABITAT ADVENTURE**

- 1. Reflection Discussion:** Facilitate a group discussion where each child shares something they learned about the habitats. Encourage them to talk about their favorite parts of the adventure and ask questions like, "How can we help protect the habitats we learned about today?" This helps them reflect on their experiences and reinforces their understanding.
- 2 Creative Showcase:** Have the children create a piece of art or a simple craft that represents their favorite habitat or animal they learned about. This could involve drawing, painting, or assembling items found in nature. Display their work, celebrating their achievements and the knowledge they've gained.
- 3. Pledge:**  
Print out the Eco-Guardian Pledge for each student to print or write their name, if you haven't done this before starting the Eco-Explorers' A HABITAT ADVENTURE.
- 4. Award:**  
Distribute the Eco-Explorer Certificate of Achievement with each child's name.

**2024**

**ECO-EXPLORER**

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**I PLEDGE TO:**

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Learn about taking care of our Earth.

Tell others about what I learn.

Share what I discover about nature.

Try to use less water and be kind to animals.

As an Eco-Explorer, I will try to use what I know to help our planet.

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Name

[trees4humans.com](https://trees4humans.com)

# Certificate of Achievement

**ECO-EXPLORER**

for successfully completing the activities  
required to be recognized as an

**ECO-EXPLORER**

is awarded to

[Your Name]



You did an amazing job learning about our beautiful planet and how to take care of it!

You're a true Eco-Explorer, because you:

- Learned about plants and animals.
- Found out how to save water and energy.
- Helped make our planet, Earth, a better place for all living things.

Month/Year

