

MAMMALS & FORESTS

Teacher Discussion Guide

LEVELS

Grades 4-5

SUBJECTS

Language Arts
Science
Social Studies
Visual Arts

CONCEPTS

Forests contain numerous habitats that support a wide range of plants and animals.

Organisms are interdependent. They depend on other organisms and nonliving components of the earth.

SKILLS

Analyzing
Categorizing
Classifying
Comparing
Contrasting
Data Gathering
Discussing
Identifying Relationships and Patterns
Interpreting
Observing
Organizing Information
Representing
Researching

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Environmental Education Coordinator, Corporate Communications Dept., Georgia-Pacific Corporation, 133 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

OVERVIEW

Mammals are warm-blooded animals that have fur or hair. More than 4,000 different types of mammal species live on our planet. Mammals that live in the forest use the environment created by the trees for food and shelter.

DISCUSSION AND STUDY TOPICS

The study of mammals can be used in the context of many different areas of learning. Here are some suggestions:

Science

- **Whose habitat is that?** Introduce students to the wide range of natural habitats: deserts, forests, prairies, marshes, ponds, etc. What is the relationship between climate and habitat? Between habitat and the color and texture of a mammal's fur? Between habitat and the types of mammals present? Have students prepare a collage of a habitat that helps illustrate the climate, the range of animals and the plants available in different habitats. (*class discussion, research project, art project*)
- **Web of life.** Have each student select a plant or animal that is part of the forest ecosystem. Students should research their organism's place in the food web and make a cutout of all food web elements from construction paper and colored markers. Students can construct a mobile that represents their food web using a clothes hanger and thread to hang cutouts in the proper arrangement. (*research topic, art project*)

Social Studies

- **Mammals of the world.** Assign student teams different regions of the United States or countries around the world. Have each team research the types of mammals found in their region or country. What type of mammals are there? What do they eat? What is their habitat like? What types of plants and trees are found in their habitat? Create a map of the region or country that includes pictures of the mammals, plants and natural habitats. (*research project, essay topic, class presentation, art project*)
- **When the forest's frontyard is our backyard.** When the suburbs move into forest areas, conflicts can arise between the animal and human community. What mammals are well-adapted to city life and why? What relationship does hunting have to mammals and the food chain? Invite a forester or a wildlife biologist to visit the classroom to engage in a class discussion about potential solutions to the problems. (*research project, class discussion*)

Language Arts

- **Mammal pen pals.** Assign a mammal to a student or team of students. Where does the mammal live? How does it live? What type of plants grow in its habitat? What does the mammal eat? Have students use that information to write a letter to a pen pal from the mammal's point of view. (*class activity, research project, essay topic, class discussion*)
- **Just so.** Have students read Rudyard Kipling's *Just So* stories. Have students choose a mammal and ask them to write a *Just So* story about their chosen animal (how the squirrel learned to climb, how the mole learned to dig, etc.). (*short story, play*)

In addition to providing beauty and recreation, forests supply raw materials to help meet society's needs for housing, paper, containers and thousands of other products used by consumers every day. As one of the country's leading forest products providers, Georgia-Pacific Corporation has a long-term interest in and commitment to the health of our nation's forests.

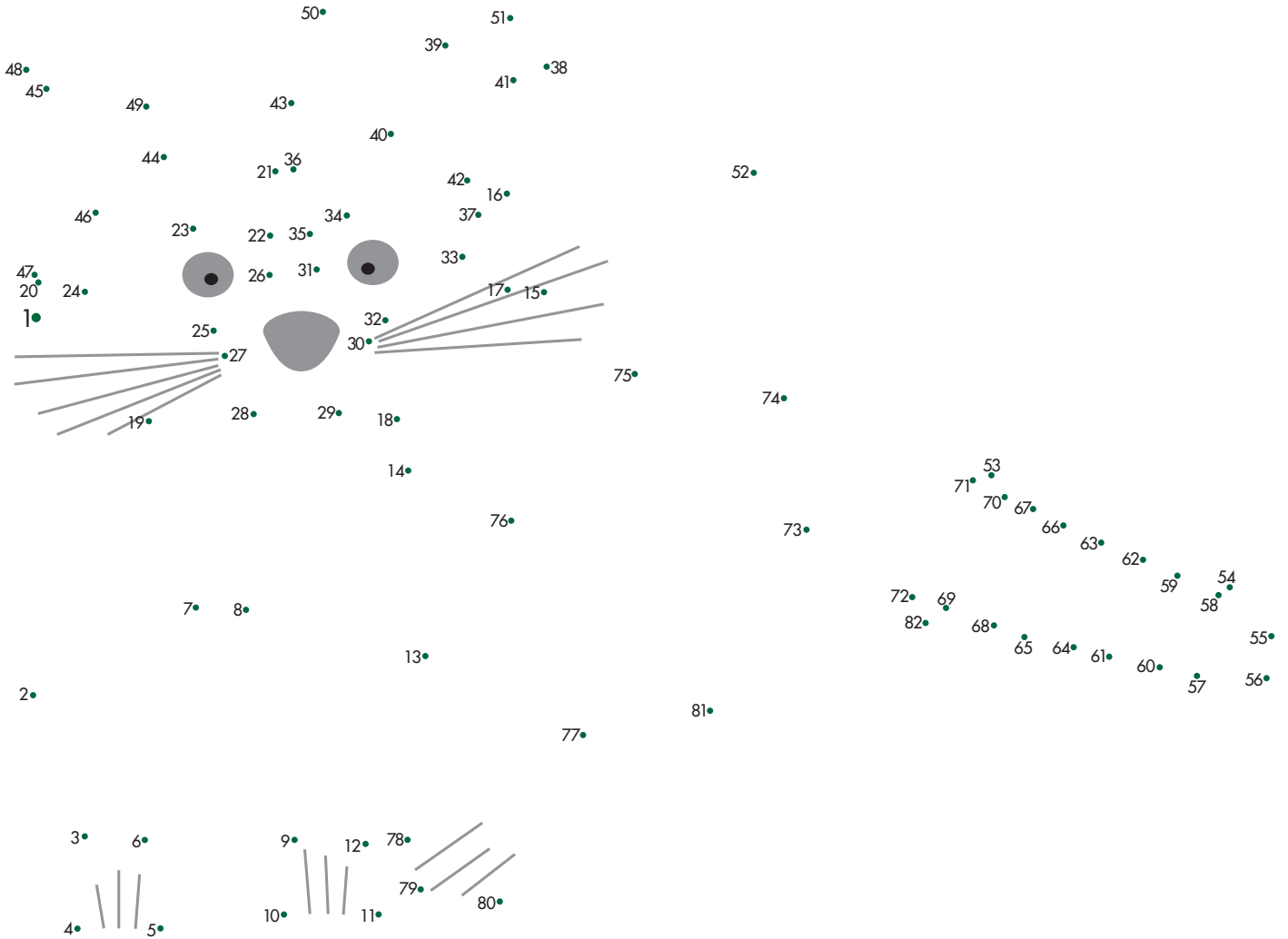
Educational in Nature® is a series of environmental education curriculum supplements designed to foster understanding and environmental awareness for your students.

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Activity Sheet

ALPHABET CODE

Connect the dots and meet your forest friend.
Then decode his message to you.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
K	V	Q	F	A	L	W	R	G	B	M	X	S	H	C	N	Y	T	I	D	O	Z	U	J	E	P

S neby iheq-jhuggp dwh ept jfeoa kehaspim up kq deoy rner fuua fsay e kema.

Kq zeg zhsprm fuua fsay rspq nwkep neptzhsprm ept duurzhsprm.

S oep fsby sp kepq rqzym ud ehyem em gyff em sp osrsym. S ek e heoouup!