

Basically, You're Alive: Basic Needs of Living Things (PreK to 1st grade)

DESCRIPTION

Are you alive? Do you need things to live? Our animal ambassadors do, too! Join a Museum Educator as we investigate how our live animal ambassadors get what they need to live, then put your skills to the test to identify when basic needs are missing.

OBJECTIVES

- Through structured discussion near live animal enclosures, students will establish the fact that they are alive and have the same basic needs (food, water, & shelter) as other living things.
- By identifying what certain basic needs mean to an animal and finding evidence of that in live animal enclosures and gallery displays, students practice observation skills and begin to reason about what happens when organisms do or do not fulfill their basic needs.
- By participating in a movement activity, students further solidify what they've learned about how certain adaptations help an organism find food, water, and shelter.

OHIO'S LEARNING STANDARDS

PreK: Science

Science Inquiry and Application

- Explores and investigates objects and events in the environment
- Develops ability to reason about cause and effect

Kindergarten: Life Science

Physical and Behavioral Traits of Living Things

- K.LS.1 Living things have specific characteristics and traits.
- K.LS.2 Living things have physical traits and behaviors, which influence their survival.

Grade 1: Life Science

Basic Needs of Living Things

- 1.LS.1 Living things have basic needs, which are met by obtaining materials from the physical environment.
- 1.LS.2 Living things survive only in environments that meet their needs.



Before your Program

If this will be your first trip to the Museum for some of your students, you may want to discuss the following questions:

- What is a Museum? Why are we going to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History?
- How should we handle objects at the Museum?
- Use the vocabulary and additional resources provided in this Teacher Guide to preview or review program content with your class.

VOCABULARY

adaptation – A feature or behavior developed over generations that helps a plant or animal get their basic needs.

basic needs – What every living thing needs to survive, that they *could not* survive without (i.e., food, water, and shelter).

enrichment – activities for captive animals that engage their brains and bodies in ways like how they would behave in the wild.

habitat – The natural home of an animal or plant.

observation – The action or process of looking at something or someone carefully to gain information.

organism – Any living thing.

reproduction – the biological process by which a new member (or members) of a species is created from a parent or parents.

respiration – The act of breathing.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

BASIC NEEDS SCAVENGER HUNT

- Get your students exploring the outdoors – this can be any park, green space, or even just your school's property.
- Define your search area to be as wide or as narrow as desired/for safety, depending on group size.
- Teachers may add to/edit the list as desired, but students should be asked to find evidence of food, water, and shelter for different animals found in their backyards. An





Ohio example would be to find things like:

- A gray squirrel burying an acorn
- A leaf chewed on by an insect
- Holes in a tree, made by a woodpecker
- An animal drinking from a creek
- To add some difficulty or to make it more interesting, try:
 - Defining a small area by throwing a hula hoop on the ground and looking at just what's inside that hula hoop. Think of an animal and then ask if its basic needs are *all* met within the area of the hula hoop. For example, if you're thinking of a bird – there may be insects in this grassy area for a bird to eat, but is there shelter?

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Click the link below to find additional online resources for teachers and students. These websites are recommended by our Museum Educators and provide additional content information and some fun, interactive activities to share with your class.

[Cleveland Museum of Natural History](#)
[Perkins Wildlife Center](#)
[PBS LearningMedia: Life Science](#)

CMNH Educators regularly review these links for quality. Web addresses often change so please notify us if any links have issues.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History <http://www.cmnh.org>

