



UNTAMED S2E5: Backyard Habitats

Classroom Activity

This classroom activity is designed to be used as a resource that inspires conversation, critical thinking, and promotes a “big picture” understanding of topics covered in each episode. Questions may be answered individually, or out loud in a group setting. Key terms and vocabulary that will help educators and students engage in discussion include:

[Habitat, environment, living vs non-living, food, water, shelter, space, coexist]

Group Size: any

Materials needed (per each diorama): shoe box, construction paper, air-dry clay, glue, markers

Preparation: gather and/or distribute materials to students

Time: 30-45 minutes

Instructions:

To better understand the idea of what elements are needed for a functioning wildlife habitat, guide your class through this activity. Beforehand, have students decide (as a group, or individually) what habitat they will be creating. For example: a forest, desert, tundra, or coastal marsh.

Once the habitat is chosen, begin to create the animals and plants that would be found there. Students may use air-dry clay, or draw them on construction paper and cut them out.

Before arranging plants and animals inside the shoebox diorama, have students draw a background on the “floor” of the box. Students should be sure to think about what non-living components of their ecosystems should be included during this step, such as geologic features, and bodies of water, if any.

Lastly, have students arrange their plants and animals inside the diorama using glue.

Conclude with a brainstorming discussion on how students think a wild animal would find the things they need to survive within their habitats.