

# WHAT'S IN A HABITAT?

*Introduces the elements of habitat with a cut-and-paste worksheet that focuses on animal homes.*

## ARIZONA SCIENCE STANDARDS

SC00S1C1-02, SC00-S1C3-02, SC00-S4C3-02

## OBJECTIVES

Students should:

- List the elements of a habitat (food, water, shelter, space.)
- Understand that the amount and availability of these elements can change over time.

## MATERIALS

- *Student Handout - Who's at Home?* for each student
- scissors
- glue
- markers
- crayons

## VOCABULARY

### Habitat

## GETTING READY

Make a copy of *Student Handout - Who's at Home?* for each student.

## DOING THE ACTIVITY

### SETTING THE STAGE

- 1) Present the idea of **habitat** by asking the students "What do you need to live?" Without much prompting, they should all list examples of foods they eat and the fact that they all drink water.
- 2) The other elements of habitat, shelter and space, may be less obvious. Ask the students, "In what sort of place do each of you live?" (a house, apartment, etc.) "Why do you live in these places?" (for protection from cold, heat, rain, or sun, or danger.) Explain that many living things take shelter in some way. Some make it, some find it, and some develop body parts to protect themselves. Ask the students, "Can you think of an animal that builds a shelter or home for itself or its babies?" (a bird, a mouse, etc)
- 3) Ask one of the students, "How many rooms does your house/apartment have? Do you think it would be okay if all of us came and moved in there with you? Why not?" (No. It would be too crowded.) Explain that just like we all have separate houses (or shelter) around town and do not share them with the whole class, all living things need the space to make their homes and find the food and water they need to live.
- 4) Explain that these are the things that make up a **habitat**: the area where an animal or plant lives and finds the food, water, shelter, and space it needs for survival.

### ACTIVITY: WHO'S AT HOME?

- 1) Give the students a copy of *Student Handout - Who's at Home?* and instruct them to color the desert scene with its animal homes and each animal.
- 2) Have them cut out the different animals and paste them in the correct homes.

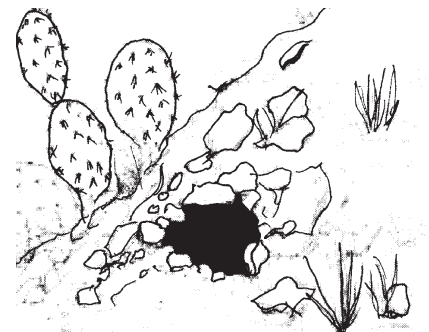
### WHO'S AT HOME? (ANSWERS)

See the corresponding names of homes on the handout.

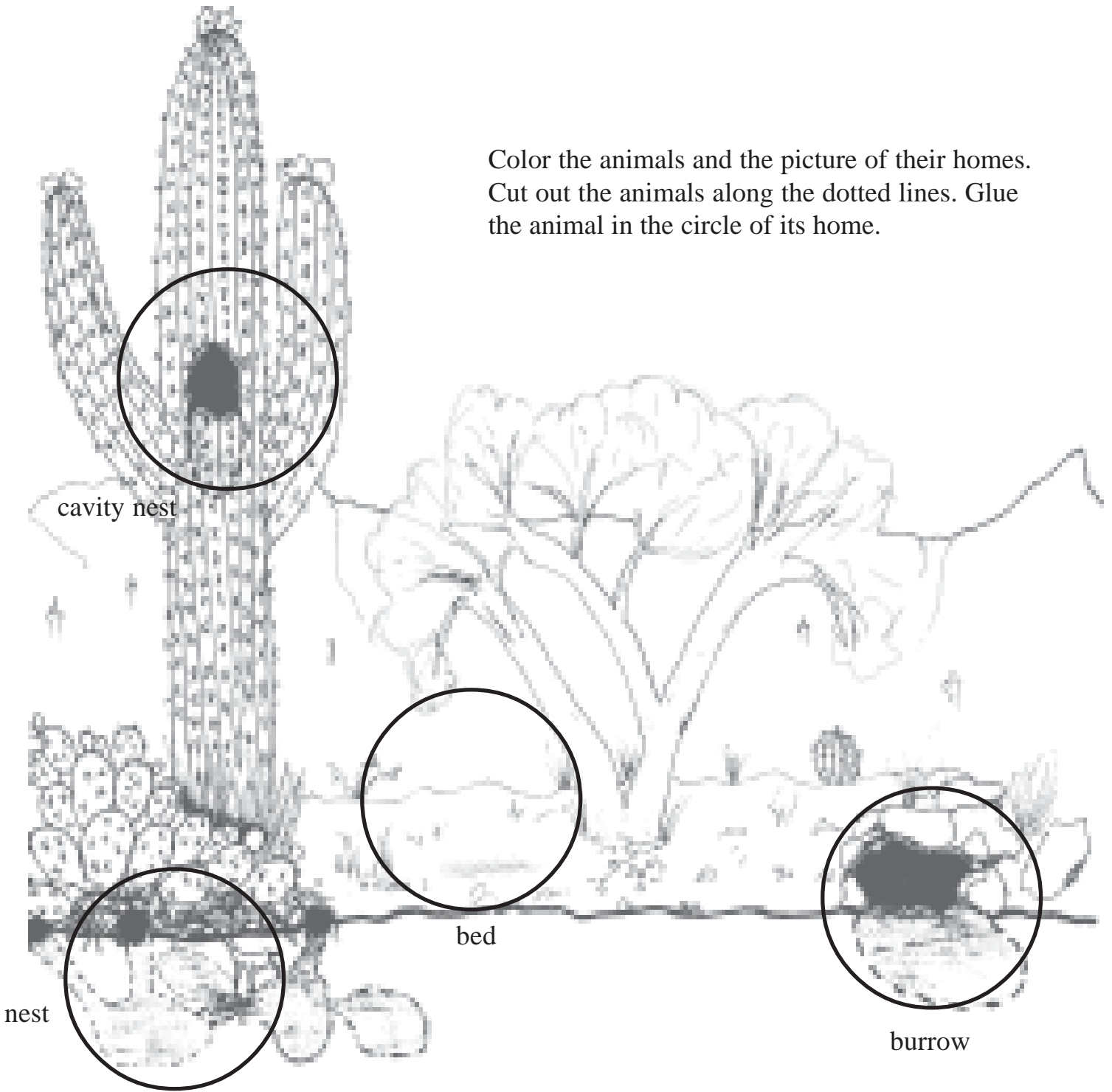
- 1) Desert Tortoise (underground burrow in rocky outcropping)
- 2) Javelina (bed in the shade beneath palo verde tree)
- 3) Pack Rat (nest under prickly pear at foot of saguaro, tunnels underground)
- 4) Elf Owl (cavity nest in saguaro)

### DISCUSSION

Discuss the homes of the different animals in the pictures as a group. Where do the animals make their homes? What might be the advantages or disadvantages of certain types of homes?



Color the animals and the picture of their homes.  
Cut out the animals along the dotted lines. Glue  
the animal in the circle of its home.



tortoise



javelina



pack rat



elf owl