

Forest Real Estate

This lesson plan was taken from the Exploring Our Forest Field Trip kit.

Note: Although this activity was originally designed to complete on a forest field trip, it also works well in the classroom.

Procedure:

1. Have the students look around in the forest, noticing the diversity of habitat. Instruct them think about how their habitat needs would be met in the forest and ask them to think about the diversity of wildlife that has the forest as habitat. Tell students they will be habitat real estate agents, looking for property for a client. The clients will be animals in search of homes.
2. Discuss the concept of real estate and the professional people (agents) involved in buying and selling properties for their customers (clients). Real estate agents look for and find property (houses, acreages, farms, cottages, business places, buildings, apartments) for clients. Agents look through listings and newspapers, post signs, visit places, advertise and talk to other agents in an effort to buy and sell real estate.
3. Tell students that they will be receiving a list of requirements from organisms (clients) want to live in this area. They each have their own special requirements or their habitat and the students, acting as their real estate agent, must find a place to live.
4. Have students work in pairs. Photocopy the Client Cards then pass them out, one to each pair or have a partner draw it randomly from a hat. Ask them to try and identify the animal first before they unscramble the letters to solve who the animal really is. The scrambled letters are below the clues (Needs and Description) on the Client Card.

Client #1 - Wood Frog	Client #2 - White-throated Sparrow
Client #3 - Downy Woodpecker	Client #4 - Great Horned Owl
Client #5 - Porcupine	Client #6 - Deer Mouse

5. When students are finished, go on a Parade of Homes or a show of the homes. As the group approaches each property, have the students who worked on it describe the animals' needs first, then identify the animal and explain why this is the ideal place for the animal.

Client Cards

<p>Client #1 Needs: damp woods forest litter in which it can hibernate during winter water for laying eggs in a jelly-like clump insects and crustaceans for food</p> <p>Description: 6 cm in length colour varies from brown to pink dark eye patches like a bandit call is a series of short, duck-like quacks usually the first to call in spring</p> <p>DOWO RFGO</p>	<p>Client #2 Needs: bushy areas in coniferous & mixed forests seeds and insects for food</p> <p>Description: white throat black & white striped crown melody sounds like O-CAN-ada, Canada, Canada</p> <p>EIHTW-DTOHAERT ROSWPAR</p>
<p>Client #3 Needs: deciduous and mixed woods large snags</p> <p>Description: black & white strong billed birds feed on insects by chipping away bark use their stiff tail as a prop as they forage along tree trunks is a builder of homes</p> <p>NODWY PKEWDOCODRE</p>	<p>Client #4 Needs: forests and woodlots small mammals and birds for food</p> <p>Description: Alberta's provincial bird hunts sometimes in the day has a deep hoo-hoo-hoooooo sounds roosts during the day builds a huge nest for young</p> <p>TEARG NODHER LOW</p>

<p>Client #5 Needs: forests and shrubby ravines leaves, twigs and bark for food</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>covered with barbed quills to protect itself from predators when threatened it will move away from agressor, erect its quills, and lashes out with its heavily armed tail sluggish on land, spends most of time in trees dog-sized, 70cm in length</p> <p>CPEINORUP</p>	<p>Client #6 Needs: any variety of habitats seeds, buds, berries, grasses and fungi for food</p> <p>Description:</p> <p>Found throughout Alberta is active all year round tan coloured on top, white below makes small tunnels in the grass and snow to get around size is 17 cm (includes tail) tail nearly as long as body</p> <p>ERDE SUOME</p>
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