

Habitat Corners



Objectives

The student will be able to describe the kinds of habitats where fish are found.

Materials

- construction paper
- cardboard boxes
- string or yarn
- tissue paper
- scissors
- paint
- glue
- markers
- library or reference materials

Action

1. Lead students in a discussion to brainstorm the kinds of places fish live. Ask students to describe how coral reefs are different from kelp beds (color, structures, etc.), and how fish in one habitat might differ from those in another habitat (body shape, etc.). Other types of fish habitats include:
 - lake
 - river
 - kelp bed
 - open ocean
 - marsh
 - stream
 - coral reef
 - deep sea
 - tide pool
 - pond
2. Divide class into groups of four or five students and ask each group to select one of the types of fish habitats discussed.
3. Assign each group a spot in the room in which to construct their habitat.
4. Have students visit the library and the Internet <www.seaworld.org> to look at pictures and read about the habitat they have chosen.
5. Encourage students to work as a group to plan their habitat. Have them show you a sketch of what they plan to create.
6. Give students access to materials and time each day to work on their habitat. Remind them to include plant and animal life.
7. When the habitats are finished, ask each group to give the class a guided tour of their habitat.

Deeper Depths

Extend this activity by linking predator/ prey species and exploring the food webs present in these habitats. Identify at what level specific fishes play a role (primary consumers, secondary consumers, top predator?). Also explore how overfishing or coastal pollution may affect the interrelationships of species within the food web.