

# HOSPITABLE HABITATS

Students will observe their favorite Zoo habitat to recreate and emphasize the features all animals need in their homes.

**Grade Level**  
3-5

**Theme:**  
Habitats  
Zoos

**Curriculum Connections:**  
S, A

**Zoo Location:**  
Habitat of  
Choice

The North Carolina Zoo has always placed a high priority on making sure that our animal habitats are as natural, safe and enjoyable as possible. By examining habitats at the Zoo, you can learn a lot about animals and their homes in the wild.

**I Spy...**

Locate one of your favorite exhibits at the Zoo and carefully observe all the features of the exhibit. If possible, identify each of the elements below before moving on to the next part of this activity (every exhibit may not include all of these features).

- Area for water/food
- Place to hide (quiet or shaded area)
- Shaded area for cooling during warmer weather
- Barrier around the habitat (preventing animals from getting out or people getting in)
- Items for animal enrichment (climbing structures, food treats, etc.)
- Areas where people can view animals
- Protection during storms or cold weather

**Map a Habitat**

Now imagine that you are in a helicopter, hovering above the exhibit areas. How does the habitat look from above? Draw a map and include your ideas and the elements you identified during your observation. Remember to label your features on the map!

