

Shoebox Habitats

What do you need?

- Shoebox
- Printer
- Paper
- Scissors
- Decorating materials (paints/crayons/pens/coloured papers)
- Glue
- Lolly sticks/paper clips/drinking straws and modelling clay/blue tack (optional)

How to make a shoebox habitat:

1. To start, prepare the shoebox by removing the lid and one of the long sides. Children will require adult supervision while using scissors.
2. Print out the species and background sheets. Please note that you may need to set the page orientation to landscape when printing the backgrounds.
3. Cut out and glue the background to the inside walls of the shoebox. You might also like to decorate the floor of your shoe box using any extra materials you have available (coloured paper, sand, straw, pebbles, etc.).
4. Colour in the species on the sheet provided. You can look at images on www.ARKive.org for inspiration - a list of the species for each habitat can be found below.
5. Next, carefully cut out each species. Care must be taken as this can be quite fiddly - adult supervision will be required.
6. The grey tabs found on some of the species can be folded back 90 degrees and glued to the bottom of the shoebox. You may wish to glue the other animals directly onto the walls of the shoebox, or suspend them from the sides using drinking straws, unfolded paper clips, lolly sticks or similar. These can be taped to the edge of the box or propped up using modelling clay or blue tack.

Here's one we made earlier:



Jungle:

- Jaguar <http://www.arkive.org/jaguar/panthera-onca/>
- Scarlet macaw <http://www.arkive.org/scarlet-macaw/ara-macao/>
- Broad-snouted caiman <http://www.arkive.org/broad-snouted-caiman/caiman-latiostris/>
- Lowland tapir <http://www.arkive.org/lowland-tapir/tapirus-terrestris/>
- Black spider monkey <http://www.arkive.org/black-spider-monkey/ateles-paniscus/>
- Pale-throated three-toed sloth <http://www.arkive.org/pale-throated-three-toed-sloth/bradypus-tridactylus/>

Savannah:

- Cheetah <http://www.arkive.org/cheetah/acinonyx-jubatus/>
- Ostrich <http://www.arkive.org/ostrich/struthio-camelus/>
- Giraffe <http://www.arkive.org/giraffe/giraffa-camelopardalis/>
- White rhinoceros <http://www.arkive.org/white-rhinoceros/ceratotherium-simum/>
- Grevy's zebra <http://www.arkive.org/grevys-zebra/equus-grevyi/>
- African elephant <http://www.arkive.org/african-elephant/loxodonta-africana/>

Under the Sea:

- Common clownfish <http://www.arkive.org/common-clownfish/amphiprion-ocellaris/>
- Curled octopus <http://www.arkive.org/curled-octopus/eledone-cirrhosa/>
- Rough-toothed dolphin <http://www.arkive.org/rough-toothed-dolphin/steno-bredanensis/>
- Green turtle <http://www.arkive.org/green-turtle/chelonia-mydas/>
- Tiger shark <http://www.arkive.org/tiger-shark/galeocerdo-cuvier/>
- Compass jellyfish <http://www.arkive.org/compass-jellyfish/chrysaora-hysoscella/>
- Corals, anemones and seaweeds

Why not try:

- Drawing extra animals to add to your habitat?
- Making the animals out of modelling clay instead of paper?
- Writing a short story based on your chosen habitat?

If you are feeling creative, you could try choosing a different habitat and drawing your own background and species. Check out these pages on ARKive for inspiration:

- Arctic <http://www.arkive.org/eco-regions/arctic/>
- Antarctic <http://www.arkive.org/eco-regions/antarctic/>
- Wytham Woods <http://www.arkive.org/eco-regions/wytham-woods/>
- Eastern deciduous forest <http://www.arkive.org/eco-regions/eastern-deciduous-forest/>

Share your creations with us:

Tweet photos of your shoebox habitats to **@ARKive** or upload a photo to Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ARKive.org>) or Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/arkive/>).