



Student's Nature Notebook

Spaces & Species Virtual Field Trip

Activity 1: "Notes on Habitat"

1: Your Habitat

All animals need to keep themselves safe and healthy. They get what they need from their surroundings. Humans are animals too! Think about what you need to survive.



Find something in your home that you need to survive.

What did you choose? Write or draw below.

Why did you choose this object?



Everything around you and the places where you get what you need are part of your **habitat**. A **habitat** is not only an animal's home; it also includes all the places an animal goes. A **habitat** provides four main components: food, water, shelter, and space. Space here doesn't mean "outer space" like stars and planets. Instead, it simply means areas where an animal goes, lives, and can be safe. All living things have habitats: animals, insects, and even plants all have habitats.

Before going outside to find living things in their habitats, **think a little more about your habitat. Where do you get what you need to survive?** Write or draw your responses below.

Food:

Water:

Shelter:

Space:

2: Get Ready to Explore!

Watch the video “Midpen Virtual Field Trip: Notes on Habitat”. <https://www.openspace.org/what-to-do/education/field-trips>

There’s nature to explore all around us. No matter where you are, you’re sharing habitat with other living things!

With an adult, plan to take a walk in your neighborhood or go to a nearby park. While on your walk, you will:

- 1. Observe animals and other living things in their habitat.**
- 2. Observe evidence (clues) of animals and other living things.**
- 3. Record your observations in your Nature Notebook.**

Often, we don’t see the living things themselves, but you can know they were around because they leave clues behind. On your walk, look or listen for **evidence (clues)** that living things leave behind.

Checklist of Evidence of Living things:

- Footprints or tracks
- Feathers, fur, hair, or skin
- Spider webs
- Poop (scat)
- Bird calls and songs
- Nests
- Holes and burrows in the ground
- Teeth marks on wood, branches, or leaves
- Holes in leaves



Can you think of some more? Write them below!

- _____
- _____
- _____

Nature Notes:

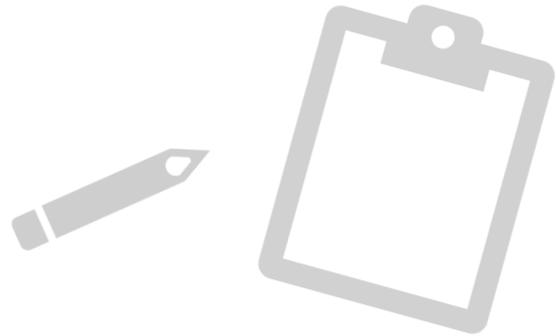
Keeping a Nature Notebook can be both an art and a science. To keep track of our living things sightings, or evidence of living things, take notes. **Bring a notebook, paper, or the worksheet included in this packet, and something to write with.** Scientists and nature lovers of all kinds record observations and questions to learn more about their surroundings.

For more information on Nature Notes, watch the video “Nature Journaling... Get started!” from the Lawrence Hall of Science. <https://youtu.be/ueil4T29frw>

Use pictures, words, and numbers to record the living things or evidence of living things. The goal is not to make a pretty picture, but to record your observations and your ideas.

Some things to include in your nature notes:

- Number of living things
- Size
- Location
- Nearby habitat
 - Food source?
 - Water?
 - Shelter?
 - Space?
- Behavior (what was the animal doing?)
- Date and time
- Weather



Can you think of some more? Write them below!

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

With an adult, plan your Field Trip at Home! Make a list of nearby locations that you can visit together safely. Consider taking a walk in your neighborhood, a nearby park, or somewhere else. Look up the weather forecast in advance and wear appropriate clothing. Bring this Nature Notebook and something to write with (pen or pencil). You can bring a camera if you have one.

List some nearby places to explore:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Go out and explore!

3: Field Trip at Home!

Use this space to record your observations. Use drawings, words, and numbers.

Print more copies of this page if you'd like. Decide where you'll walk and be sure to bring an adult.

Location:	Date:	Time:

4: What did you find?

What did you notice? List what kinds of living things you observed and the evidence of living things that you observed (if you didn't see the living thing itself). If you know the name of the living thing, you can include it. You don't need to know the name to include it on this list, but try to describe it as best as you can:

Did you observe a living thing interacting with its habitat? Was it getting food or water, or was it in its shelter? **Describe one example of observing this living thing interacting with its habitat.**

What questions came up while you went on your Field Trip at Home? What is something that you'd like to find out more about?

5: Reflection



Close your eyes and think about your Field Trip at Home.

Describe your feelings before, during, and after your Field Trip at Home.

What did this Field Trip at Home remind you of?

**Did you find anything that surprised you while on your Field Trip at Home?
Why was it surprising?**

Where would you like to explore next? Go back to the list you wrote while you and your adult were planning your Field Trip at home. Also consider coming back to the same location during another season or time of day to notice any changes.