



Habitats and Vegetation

Habitat settings

Age: 7-14

Topic: Creative Writing and Biology

Time: 1 hour



Learning through Landscapes

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What should learners already know?

- Children should be aware that there are different habitats in different places around the world.

What equipment will I need?

- Plain white paper
- Pens, pencils and writing materials.

How will learners explore this?

1. Divide the class into five groups, and assign each group a habitat: Grassland, Forest, Swamp, River, Mountain. Alternatively, feel free to think of your own or allow children to choose the habitat in their groups!
2. Encourage children to discuss in their groups and to write down as many adjectives and descriptive phrases about the habitat as they can. This could be done on a big mind map, with the name of the habitat in the middle.
3. Particularly, children should focus on the sights, sounds and smells of that habitat. Encourage children to also think of some animals and plants they might find in that habitat.
4. Now that they have created this mind map, encourage each group to create a short story setting (up to four sentences long), which could form the beginning of a story set in their habitat.
5. Encourage the children to be as descriptive as possible; we want the reader to really feel like they are stood in the habitat while they read their story.
6. Finish the activity by getting each group to read their short story introduction to the class.

How can we show the learning?

- Ask children to describe how the habitats were different from one another? How can we tell which habitat we are in?
- Challenge children by asking them to describe how to create a description that lets the reader feel like they are immersed in the setting? Using all the senses, and plenty of adjectives is a great place to start.
- What animals and plants did children place in each habitat?
- Ask children to think about how they have made their habitat setting exciting to read for the reader. Settings set the scene for the rest of the story, so we want to make sure the reader will keep on reading; what does the class think are some important ways to do this?



Ideas for further habitats:

Cave
Beach
Jungle
Lake
Desert