



Blocks: Owl Habitats

Using photographs and illustrations for reference, children build habitats for owls.

Big Idea	Animals need food, water and air to survive.
Guiding Question	How do animals form communities, work together, and use and adapt to their environment, and how is this experience similar and different to what people do?
Vocabulary	habitat: a place where animals live characteristic: an identifying quality or trait of a person or animal
Materials and Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Owl Moon</i>, Jane Yolen Flag a page that depicts the woods. ● <i>White Barn, Barn Owl</i>, Nicola Davis Flag pages 6-7. ● <i>Owls</i>, Gail Gibbons Flag pages 11, 17, and 21, depicting what owls need to survive. ● chart paper ● markers Title the chart paper “What Owls Need.” ● Owl Habitat Images (some provided) Display images in the Block center. ● informational books about animals and animal habitats ● slips of paper ● pencils ● clipboards ● figurines of owls, purchased or child-made ● Beautiful Stuff, especially natural materials such as sticks or twigs Place the Beautiful Stuff in a small basket.
Intro to Centers	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>We have been learning a lot about owls. What are some owl characteristics, or important features of owls, that you remember?</i></p> <p>Provide time for children to turn and talk.</p>

	<p><i>Remember when you made habitats for frogs and fish in the Blocks Center? Now you will build habitats for owls! Let's look at the book Owls to remember what kind of habitat owls live in and what they need to survive. We will make a list of your ideas to help with your building.</i></p> <p>Hold up <i>Owls</i>. Show flagged pages, drawing attention to the sources of food and other features that might be included in the habitat. Have the children turn and talk to share their ideas about owl habitats. Invite a few children to share ideas in the whole group and add these to the chart paper.</p> <p><i>This is a great start! Let's also look at White Owl, Barn Owl and Owl Moon to see what more information we can find.</i></p> <p>Repeat the process for these two texts.</p> <p><i>We will put this list in the Blocks Center for you to reference as you build a habitat for owls. There are also some photographs to inspire you.</i></p> <p><i>When you are finished building part of the habitat, use paper and markers to make signs that tell other people about the parts of your habitat.</i></p> <p><i>If you want to save your habitat and keep working on it tomorrow, make another sign that says 'save' and write your name.</i></p>
During Centers	<p>Inspired by the texts and posted images, children construct habitats using blocks and other materials, collaboratively or independently. Encourage children to add written elements to their structures (signs and labels) and to document their work through drawing or photographs.</p> <p>Offer materials for children to construct animal figurines that can be used in the center. Owl figurines could be made from Beautiful Stuff, paper, or clay.</p>
Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tell me about this part of your habitat. Why is it important? ● What do you notice in the picture that gives you ideas for your habitat? ● What types of blocks will you use to construct the owl habitat? What additional materials could you use? ● What do owls need in their habitat to be healthy? ● How can you represent those things using blocks or other materials? ● Could a person live in this habitat? Why or why not?
Standards	<p>R.4.K Ask and answer questions with prompting and support about who, what, when, where and how.</p>

R.6.K.a With prompting and support, identify characters and settings and major events in a story.

R.6.K.b With prompting and support, describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.

K-LS1-1. Observe and communicate that animals (including humans) and plants need food, water, and air to survive. Animals get food from plants or other animals. Plants make their own food and need light to live and grow.

Notes