



## 9. Match Animals to Their Environment

### If you were .....

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#### Concepts

- Every living thing occupies a space within its environment.
- Most animals depend on the resources available within their environments to provide needed spaces.
- Humans depend on their natural environments, but they also construct places to meet their needs for safe, secure, comfortable spaces.

#### Overview

Students will listen and participate by filling in missing words as the teacher reads a silly poem about places where animals might live. The teacher should read and repeat the poem several times. Students will draw pictures representing first, their favorite nonsense lines from the poem and second, animals in more appropriate environments than those described in the poem.

#### Science, Math and Language Arts Skills

- Comparing
- Contrasting
- Communicating
- Identifying patterns
- Listening

#### Standards

- Organisms can survive only in environments where their needs can be met.
- Animals depend on their natural and constructed environments.

#### Time

Setup: 10 minutes

Class: Two class periods

#### Materials

Per student:

- Drawing paper
- Colors or markers
- Poem - *Where Should You Be?* (a PDF of the story is attached in this document)
- *Tillena's Big Adventure* story (a PDF of the story is attached in this document)

#### Setup

Conduct this activity with the entire class.

#### Safety

1. Follow all district and school laboratory safety procedures.

#### Background

Although all animals, plants and other living things occupy physical spaces within their environments, these spaces often serve different purposes from a human home. Plants are not mobile, so the spaces they occupy are determined by where the plant originally begins to grow. Plants survive in places that provide the necessary amounts of sunlight, water and nutrients, as well as protection from predators and disease.

Animals, of course, do move about. However, while a human needs a place to live—a home—many animals do not. Many animals build nests/places to raise their young and then abandon those places. Other animals, such as bees or prairie dogs, build large colonies that serve the needs of many individuals. Often, animal spaces are used for protection from predators. Humans, on the other hand, need places to gather, eat, sleep, feel safe, store

their belongings and carry out social activities. For additional activities in this series, see K-5 Teacher Resources at <http://www.bioedonline.org/k%2D5/>.

### Procedure

1. Refer to the story, *Tillena Lou's Big Adventure* (see PDF attached in this document). Ask students, *What did Tillena discover about the "people place," as compared to her environment?* Tell students that they will listen as you read a silly poem about places where animals live. They will follow the rhyming pattern to fill in the missing words and then make sense of the poem.
2. Read the poem to the students, leaving out the underlined words (last word of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lines). Give students opportunities to fill in the missing words as you read.
3. Give each student a large piece of drawing paper. Direct students to fold their sheets in half vertically. Encourage students to draw a picture of one of the animals in the poem in the "wrong" place mentioned in the poem and in the "right" place—on each half of the sheet. Or let students make up another ridiculous place for something to live and draw the two scenarios.
4. To get students started, you might ask them, *Does a fish live in a cereal dish? Why or why not? Could it?*

### Extensions

Write more verses together and illustrate the new poems.

## Where Should You Be?

What if you were a frog?  
Could you live on a dog?  
Would you live on the road  
if you really were a toad?

What if you were a fish?  
Could you live in a cereal dish?  
Would you live underneath the sea  
if you really were a bumble-bee?

What if you were a bear?  
Could you live here, there or anywhere?  
Would you give a house a whirl  
if you really were a squirrel?

What if you were a duck?  
Could you live in a pickup truck?  
Would you really live on me  
if you were just a tiny flea?

But what if you're really just a kid?  
Could you live with a purple squid?  
Or would you live in an old brown shoe?  
Would that really ever do?

It really all depends on you,  
how you live and what you do.  
But a kid's got to have a house.  
Even if it is shared with a mouse!

# Tillena's Big Adventure

By Barbara Tharp and Paula Cutler

Draft text for story to accompany  
My World and Me unit:  
***RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT***



Tillena Lou's a turtle,  
As curious as can be!  
She likes to look around  
Just to see what she can see.

Her mother says it's not safe  
To stray too far from home,  
But often curiosity  
Just makes her want to roam.

Sunning on her special log,  
Ready for another day,  
Tillena needs her breakfast,  
Then she will be on her way.

Soon she spies a water snail,  
The kind she likes to eat,  
And with a crunch and a munch,  
She has her delicious treat.

Now she holds her breath and dives,  
Underwater to a spot  
Where she finds some flower roots  
That are tangled in a knot.

They are from water lilies,  
Tasty to Tillena Lou!  
They're another favorite food,  
And her brothers like them, too!

A very full Tillena  
Climbs up the bank of grass,  
Out of the clear, fresh water  
Onto a smooth dirt path;

Tillena Lou's a turtle,  
As curious as can be!  
She likes to look around  
Just to see what she can see.

On the path in from of her  
There are many wondrous things:  
Ants and worms and butterflies  
With fluttering, outstretched wings.

Above the little turtle  
Is a blue and cloudless sky.  
The birds are singing in the trees-  
And squirrels nibble nuts nearby.

This is where they all belong-  
A natural place to be.  
Here they have all that they need  
To live most comfortably.

The tiny, little tutle  
Has wandered far from home;  
It's just curiosity  
That makes her want to roam!

Tillena Lou's a turtle,  
As curious as can be!  
She likes to look around  
Just to see what she can see.  
She is lost and so she looks

To her left and to her right.  
Then she sees in front of her  
A really scary sight!

Two giant feet block her path,  
They are standing in the leaves.  
Tillena tries to get away.  
As she ducks into the weeds.

A hand reaches down and grabs  
A startled Tillena Lou.  
So she pops inside her shell,  
Because that's what turtles do.

Stuffed deep into a pocket  
Where it's dark and warm inside,  
The tiny, tucked-in turtle  
Takes a bumpy, bouncy ride.

The ride stops and Tillena,  
Feels she is all alone,  
So she crawl from the pocket  
To a place unlike her home.

The puzzled little turtle  
Stands near a big white box.  
It makes a loud sloshing noise  
As it wildly shakes and rocks.

This box is not at all like  
Anything she's has EVER seen!  
No friend at home on the lake  
Has a strange swishing machine.

**Tillena Lou's a turtle,  
As curious as can be!  
She likes to look around  
Just to see what she can see.**

Is this a place for PEOPLE?  
She just has to find out more.  
Cautiously, she backs away  
And heads through an open door.

Tillena goes exploring  
And she very quickly finds  
A room that filled with smells  
Of many different kinds.

From her spot beside a chair  
Tillena can clearly see  
A PERSON at the table  
Eating apples voraciously.

Now another big white box  
Suddenly is opened up—  
Cool air whooshes out from it  
As someone fills up a cup!

Now everywhere she turns,  
She sees something that is new!  
This is a real adventure  
For little Tillena Lou.

The trees are in clay buckets  
And fish in a big glass bowl.  
Water's inside a place to sit  
And it flushes down a hole!

There is a big box that talks  
With moving pictures inside,  
And small switches turn on lights  
When it is dark outside.

**Tillena Lou's a turtle,  
As curious as can be!  
She likes to look around  
Just to see what she can see**

There is no sky above her.  
No grass between her toes;  
No log or clear blue lake,  
Not a single thing she knows.

Tillena wants to leave now—  
She has seen enough today.  
This is not a place for her  
To live the turtle way.

Suddenly, four spotted legs  
Come scampering through the door:  
This must be her chance to leave,  
So she scoots across the floor!

No one seems to notice,  
Hasty Tillena Lou  
As she lands upon the porch,  
Then, scurries off there, too.

With no stops to look around  
She sets off across the lawn.  
On the way there's much to see,  
But she just hurries on.

Now at home beside the lake  
She's as happy as can be.  
She is back where she belongs,  
Snuggled underneath her tree.

**Tillena Lou's a turtle  
As curious as can be.  
She still wants to look around  
But much more cautiously!**



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