Where Do Animals Live?

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from Resources and the Environment Teacher’s Guide and for Tillena Lou’s Big Adventure.
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Where Do Animals Live?

Students 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 draw pictures representing both their favorite nonsense lines from the poem and animals in more appropriate environments.

Although all animals and plants (and other living things) occupy physical spaces within 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.

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.

SKILLS
• Comparing and contrasting
• Communicating
• Identifying patterns
• Listening

TIME
Setup: 10 minutes
Class: 2 class periods

MATERIALS (see Setup)
Teacher Materials
• Copy of Tillena Lou’s Big Adventure (available in PDF format in the Library section at http://www.bioedonline.org)

Materials per Student
• Crayons or markers
• Drawing paper

EXTENSION
Write more verses together and illustrate the new poems.
Where Do Animals Live?

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!