

# Activity One

# The Amazing Earth

## Part A

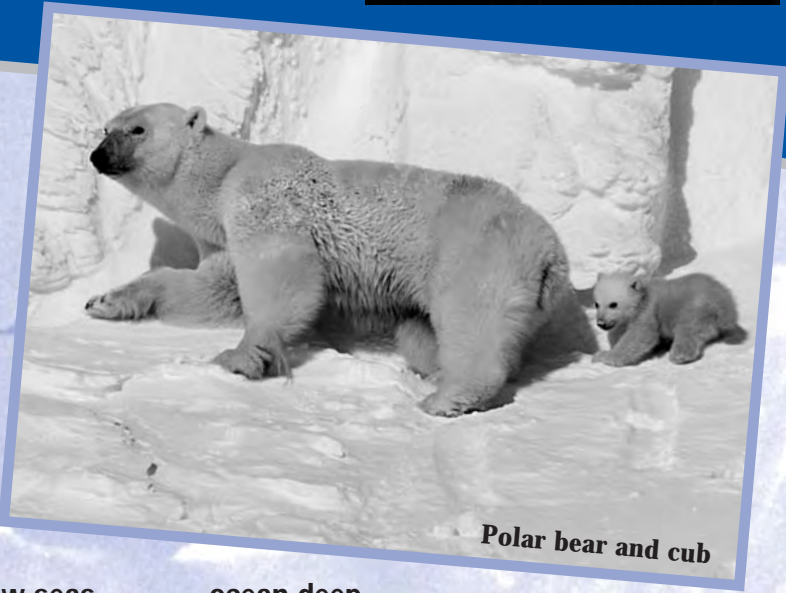
Earth is a planet of stunning natural beauty. From the towering peaks of Nepal, to the lush green of the Amazon valley, to the dry-sculpted crescents of the Sahara, to the shining polar icecaps, our planet contains a diverse and amazing variety of habitats. And you can explore all these habitats in the new DVD series **Planet Earth**, coming to stores on April 24.

To get ready for your adventure, take this quick tour of the habitats featured in **Planet Earth**. First, look at the locations listed in the first column below. Then decide which of these ten habitats you would find in those locations:

- |           |              |             |                  |            |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| cave      | ice worlds   | jungles     | shallow seas     | ocean deep |
| mountains | great plains | fresh water | seasonal forests | deserts    |

Write the name of the correct habitat for each set of locations in column three.

Locations	Parent Answer	Habitat—Your answer
Simien Mountains; Rockies; Andes; Alps		
Lake Baikal; Colorado River; Nile River; Angel Falls		
Lechuguilla; Cave of Swallows		
Gobi; Atacama; Death Valley		
Antarctica; the Arctic		
Kansas; Tibetan Plateau; Northern India		
Ngogo forest; New Guinea		
Reefs of Indonesia; Great Barrier Reef		
Taiga forest; Eastern Russia		
Atlantic and Pacific		



Polar bear and cub

## Part B

How well does your parent or caregiver know planet Earth? Fold back your answers and ask him or her to match each set of locations with its correct habitat. Which of you knows more about our amazing Earth?

After both you and an adult have recorded your answers, check them below.

### Did you know?

The floor of the ocean is lined with a mountain range that continues unbroken for 45,000 miles! Hot vents erupt from the mountains spewing heat from Earth's molten core, giving life to the black, barren sea floor.

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Answer Key: Top to bottom: mountains, fresh water, jungles, great plains, ice worlds, shallow seas, seasonal forests, oceans deep, caves, deserts, great plains, fresh water, jungles, great plains, ice worlds, shallow seas, seasonal forests, oceans deep

Travel to some of the most amazing places on Earth with the **Planet Earth** DVD set available at your local retail outlet beginning April 24, 2007.

Activity Two

# Be Adaptable



## Part A

In the DVD series **Planet Earth**, you can see the many amazing ways animals have adapted to survive in their habitats—from cave swiftlets who build nests out of saliva to guanacos who survive by licking dew off cactus spines.

Consider some of the animals below. How do you think they adapt? In the first two rows, you are given a habitat, a specific location where that habitat is found, and the name of an animal that lives there. You fill in the adaptation. (If you can't figure out what it would take for an animal to survive in such an environment, use online resources to learn more about the animals listed.)

In the third row, it's all up to you. Choose any habitat, tell where you can find that habitat on planet Earth, name an animal that lives there, and describe how the animal has adapted to its environment. When you have finished, share your chart with your classmates.



Fennec fox

Habitat	Location	Animal	Adaptation
Caves	Edwards Aquifer, Texas	Texas Salamander	
Deserts	Australia	Kangaroo	

## Part B

Habitats are everywhere on planet Earth. Find out for yourself by exploring a microhabitat where you live. Here's a chance to create your own science documentary about the diversity of life in your part of the planet. Just follow the steps below.

**You will need:** a magnifying glass, tweezers, plastic cups, tray or box to hold the cups, notebook and pencil

1. Make a three-column table on a blank piece of paper. Label the columns: Drawing, Name, and Description. Make the table large enough that you can record your observation in the appropriate areas.
2. Select your habitat – for example, a backyard, pond edge, beach, tidal marsh, even the grass bordering a sidewalk – and record the location at the top of your table.
3. Measure off one square yard of the habitat and mark the area with string, rocks or sticks.
4. Within your square yard, measure square-foot sections and concentrate on one at a time.
5. Using your magnifying glass and tweezers, carefully

comb back and forth through each square-foot section, stopping to sketch, name and describe, if possible, each life form you encounter.

6. Continue until you have surveyed each square-foot section.
7. Compile your findings in a documentary style report, either in written form, Powerpoint, movie or multimedia format. Then present your documentary to your class.

### Did you know?

Emperor penguin males incubate the egg by keeping it in a pouch above their feet. The incubation period lasts through the winter when temperatures can reach 60° F below zero and the sun does not shine for four months. How's that for a good father!

## Activity Three

## Save Planet Earth

planet earth  
as you've never seen it before

Snow leopard

## Part A

The photographers who created the DVD series **Planet Earth** show us some of the oddest creatures on Earth—from the deep-sea octopus who flies with wings, to the parasitic fungi who infiltrate an insect host, feed on it, and then burst out of its body.

Unfortunately, a staggering number of species on planet Earth are on the Endangered Species List, and many more are in danger of joining the list. Select one, either from the DVD series **Planet Earth** or from your own research. Fill in the chart below with the relevant information and combine your chart with those of your classmates to create an Endangered Species Book. Add photographs, illustrations or other artwork to the book and make it available for other students in your school to read.

Animal
Status
Why endangered
What can be done
1.
2.
3.
(Photos, illustrations)

## Part B.

Spread the word! Humans can help protect endangered species, but only if they know about the problem. It's your job to educate your peers and your community.

Write a list of three things you can do to save some of the animals that are in danger.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Now get together with your classmates and share what you have learned by holding an Endangered Species Fair. Create displays based on your research in Part A, and posters that tell everyone your ideas for helping our endangered species.

**Did you know?**

In the United States, 735 species of plants and 496 species of animals are listed as threatened or endangered.