

Introduces the elements of habitat with a cut-and-paste worksheet that focuses on animal homes.

ARIZONA SCIENCE

STANDARDS

SC00-S4C3-01,
SC00-S4C3-02,
SC01-S4C3-03

OBJECTIVES

Students should:

- List the elements of a habitat (food, water, shelter, space)
- Understand that the amount and availability of these elements can change over time.

MATERIALS

- “Who’s At Home?” handout for each student
- scissors
- glue
- markers
- crayons

VOCABULARY

- **Habitat** - the place an animal or plant lives which provides the food, water, shelter, and space for its survival.

GETTING READY

Make a copy of the “Who’s at Home?” worksheet for each student.

DOING THE ACTIVITY

SETTING THE STAGE

- 1) Present the idea of habitat by asking the students about the different characters in the story *Seasons of Saguaro*: “What did each of the characters need to survive in the desert?” The students should readily generate examples of the types of foods each animal looked for, or the fact that the animals and plants needed water.
- 2) The other elements of habitat, shelter and space, may be less obvious. Ask questions to elicit answers regarding the types of shelter the characters found such as “Where did Saguaro need to grow when she was a baby?” or “Where did Kangaroo Rat sleep during the day?”
- 3) Ask the students questions to get them thinking about the need for space: “Do you think Coyote can find all the rabbits and prickly pear fruits he needs just at the spot where Saguaro is rooted in the ground?” (No. He needs a lot of space to find his food, water, and shelter.)
- 4) Explain that these are the things that make up a **habitat**: the area where an animal or plant lives and finds the food, water, shelter, and space it needs for survival.



ACTIVITY: WHO'S AT HOME?

- 1) Give the students a copy of “Who’s At Home?” and instruct them to color the desert scene with its animal homes and each animal.
- 2) Have them cut out the different animals and paste them in the correct homes.

WHO'S AT HOME? (ANSWERS)

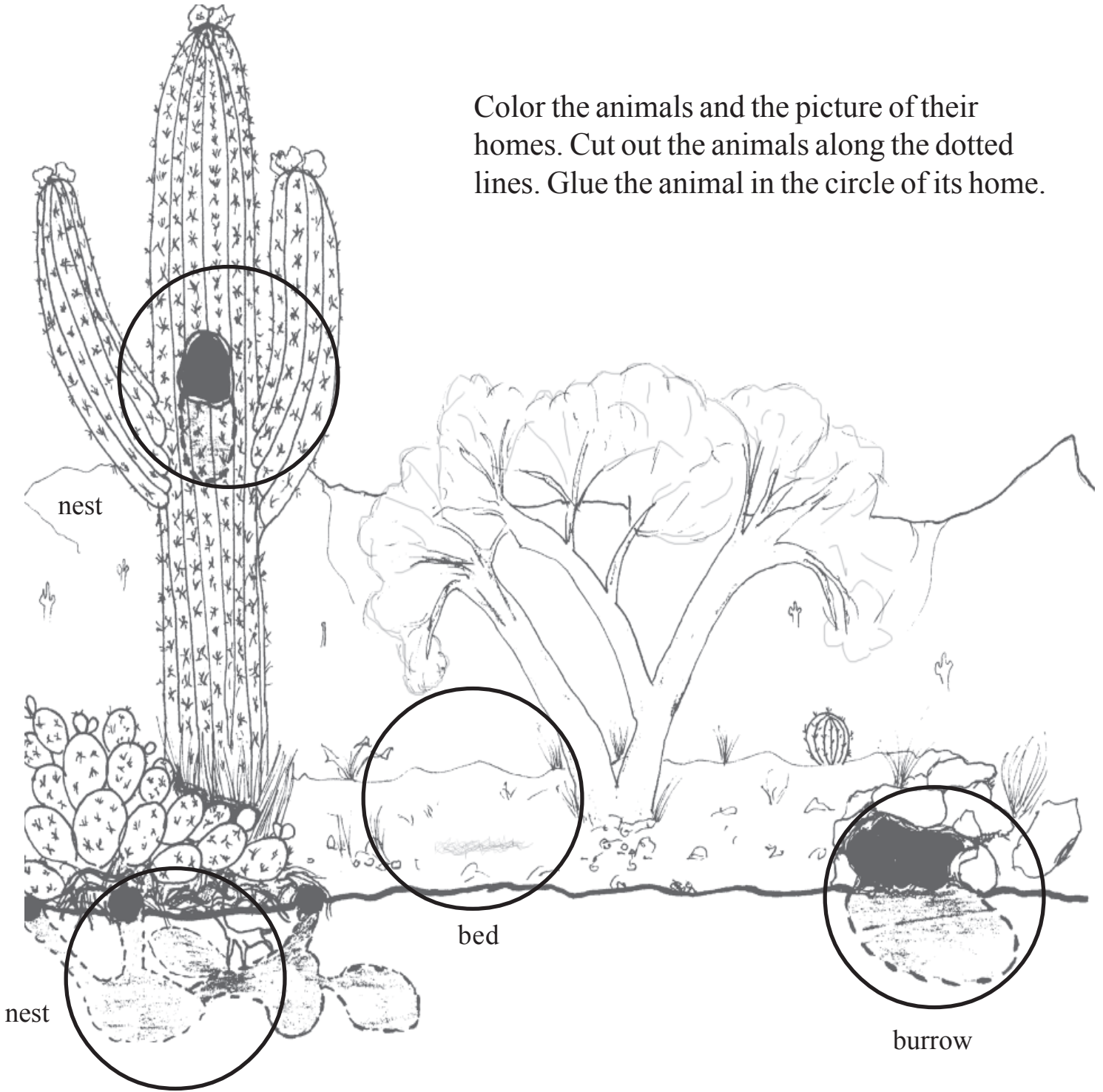
See the corresponding names of homes on the handout.

- 1) Desert Tortoise (underground **burrow** in rocky outcropping)
- 2) Javelina (**bed** in the shade beneath palo verde tree)
- 3) Pack Rat (**nest** under prickly pear at foot of saguaro, tunnels underground)
- 4) Elf Owl (**nest** in saguaro)

DISCUSSION

Discuss the homes of the different animals in the pictures as a group. Where do the animals make their homes? What might be the advantages or disadvantages of certain types of homes?

Color the animals and the picture of their homes. Cut out the animals along the dotted lines. Glue the animal in the circle of its home.



nest

bed

burrow

nest



tortoise



javelina



pack rat



elf owl