



### **Adding Up the Facts: Wildlife Needs**

**Objective:** Students will understand that all wildlife have basic needs: food, water, shelter, space.

**NGSS Connection:** *K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 2-LS4-1*

**Grade:** K, 1, 2

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Background:** All wildlife have basic needs. These needs are food, water, shelter, and space. These basic needs must be found within their home range and is what biologists' generally refer to as wildlife habitat. All wildlife have these basic needs, but they are all different for each wildlife species. In this short activity, students generate a list of facts about the wildlife and their basic needs.

Food – Access to their preferred food sources

Water – To drink or for part of their life cycle

Shelter – A preferred area to sleep, or nest, or rest

Space – Room to move around to find food, water, shelter, and mates

**Materials needed:** Books, Videos, Websites about Wildlife. Wildlife Needs PowerPoint slide (optional).

#### **Activity:**

1. Watch videos, read books, or look up information about wildlife. New Hampshire fact sheets online from New Hampshire Fish and Game:  
<https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/profiles.html>
2. Write the following headers on a board or screen: Food, Water, Shelter, Space. List several wildlife species down the left hand column. Ask students for examples of food, water, shelter, space for wildlife that they read about or watched in the videos. (Students could also be given a worksheet to fill out.)
3. Explain the definitions as students begin to provide examples. Review the Wildlife Needs PowerPoint slide.
4. Review your list and see if all the needs of a specific wildlife species is listed. You may need to look up some answers using field guides or the internet.
5. Pose the following question to students: What did we learn by adding up these facts? (What do all wildlife have in common?) In every category, students should come to the conclusion that all wildlife need food, water, shelter, and space.

**Extension:** Go outside, observe wildlife and identify their habitat needs in your outdoor classroom, schoolyard habitat, or local park.

**Assessment:** Students are able to identify the needs of some wildlife species and understand that all wildlife need: food, water, shelter, and space.