



## ***It's Your Niche***

### ***Science – Grade 4-6***

**Students will define habitat and niche.**

Materials:

- Index card for each student
- Write and coloring materials
- Research materials

Instructions:

All animals fill a certain niche in their environment. They live where they live because of the needs they have. The location they live must be able to provide food, water, shelter, and space in a suitable arrangement. Animals also fill roles in the environment in which they live. They may be a predator for a certain animal, or a prey species. They may hunt in the day or perhaps the night. The role they play is called the animal's ecological niche. It includes such things as where and how it gathers its food, its role in the food chain, what it gives or does for the ecosystem, its habits and periods of activity. The ecological niche can also be described as what the animal does for a living.

1. Review habitat with students. Tell students that the term "habitat" can be considered an animal's address.
2. Review niche with students. Tell students that an animal's niche can be considered the job that the animal has. Allow students to choose and research a certain animal to find out its niche.
3. Ask students to create a business card for the animal they researched. The business card should advertise the animal's job in the ecosystem. To help your students, you may want to bring in a few examples of business cards. Business cards should include the following: name of animal, job title, company name, address, phone number, slogan, and illustration or symbol for business.
4. Hang business cards on a bulletin board titled, "What's Your Niche?"