



Mass Audubon

April Vacation Virtual Camp

Friday: Wake Up to Wildlife

Grades K to 2

WHAT'S WILDLIFE?

Find the Goobalies

What you Need

Pictures of animals or stuffed animals

10 to 15 different colored pipe cleaners* (You can also use lengths of yarn or scraps of cloth.)

*Make sure to have some colors that are common in nature and some colors that stand out.

Jump Start the Exploration

Wildlife are animals, plants, insects, or any living thing that lives in nature. Wildlife can be found in wild places like forests, meadows, lakes, or oceans but they can also be found in cities and towns. Wildlife is a term for any living-thing that needs to find its own water, food, and shelter in nature. Animals like dogs, cats, other pets, and farm animals rely on people to help take care of them. They are called domestic animals. People provide water, food, and shelter for domestic animals.

People also provide safety for domestic animals, while wildlife need to look out for predators (animals that want to eat them). Wild animals have many ways to stay safe from predators. They run, swim, or fly fast, or they protect themselves with quills or bad smells. They also hide from predators by blending into their surroundings. This is called camouflage. Mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and even insects have parts of their body that look like the habitat around them. When a predator is nearby, the camouflaged wildlife can hide by just standing still.

What wildlife do you see every day?

What are some examples of wildlife that call Massachusetts home?

How about wildlife in other parts of the world?

Can you think of an animal that is sometimes wild and sometimes domesticated?

What are some of the reasons people have domesticated animals?

Staying Safe

Indoors: In your play space, remove tripping hazards, decide on the boundaries, and pick what places are off limits.

Outdoors: Set clear boundaries for how far away the items will be hidden from the start point.

DIRECTIONS

1. Look at pictures of animals in your favorite books, in a magazine, or even your stuffed animals. Decide which animals are wildlife and which are domesticated (animals that need people to live). Don't forget some animals, like rabbits, can be both wild and domesticated. Look at the animals you have sorted into wildlife and domesticated. Do you think any of them use camouflage to hide from predators?
2. We are going to study a make-believe wildlife called Goobalies. (The Goobalies are the different colored pipe cleaners, strings, pipe cleaners, yarn, or scraps of cloth)
3. Close your eyes, while an adult or friend hides the Goobalies.
4. When the Goobalies are all hidden, open your eyes and try to find the Goobalies. When they are found bring them to the adult who will place them in a line in the order they were found.
5. Continue until all the Goobalies are found.
6. Take turns or re-hide the Goobalies. Try different locations to hide the Goobalies.

Talk About Your Learning

What Goobalies were found first?

What about their color made them hard to find or easy to find?

Were there any Goobalies that were never found? What colors do you think they were?

Think about the animals you sorted earlier. What colors were they?

Do you think their colors help them hide from predators?

What predators might they be hiding from?

Why do you think some wildlife stand-out and do not use camouflage?

Additional Resources

Mass Audubon: [Nature and Wildlife](#)

WGBH - Wild Kratts: [Free Wild Card Game](#)

National Geographic Kids: [Hidden Animals](#)

Project Learning Tree: [32 Examples of Camouflage in Nature](#)