



Habitat Color Challenge (Teacher's Page)
In Zoo Activity
Grades: 4-6

Materials:

- One Habitat Color Challenge worksheet per group
- Clipboards
- Pencils

At School:

Discuss how animals use different colors and patterns to help them survive. Animals may use camouflage not only to stay hidden from predators, but also to sneak up on prey. Some animals use bright colors or warning coloration to stay safe from predators. Poison dart frogs are a good example. Color variation also depends on habitat. In which habitats would you expect to see a greater variety of colors? Why?

Divide students into four groups. Assign each group a color pair:

Black & Orange
Brown & Red
White & Yellow
Gray & Blue

Have students choose a team name that reflects their color pair. For example, the white & yellow team may want to be the Polar Bears. Also, discuss shades of colors and different color names (scarlet, buff, silver, pink, etc.). Decide which shades will count towards a color – do the pink flamingoes count for the red team? You may also decide that eye, nose, and tongue colors do not count for points.

At the Zoo:

Give each team a Habitat Color Challenge worksheet and a pencil. Remind the students to write each animal's name in the appropriate habitat.

Back at School:

Have each team total their points. Which habitat scored the most points? What was the most common color in each habitat? Why do you think that is? What was the least common color? Which habitats had the most and least color diversity? Discuss the various color strategies seen throughout the Zoo and how animals use color and patterns in different ways.



Habitat Color Challenge (Student Worksheet)

Animals may use their colors and patterns to help them blend into their surroundings, warn other animals, attract a mate, defend their territory or identify others of their own kind. Some colors are more common to specific types of habitats. For example, white is a very common color for Arctic animals. Your mission is to find animals that have one or both of your team colors.

Our team colors are _____ and _____ .

Our team name is _____ .

- ❖ When you see an animal that has **one of your team's colors**, your team scores **one point**.
- ❖ When you see an animal that has **both of your team's colors**, your team scores **3 points**.
- ❖ When you see an animal that has **one or both of your team's colors in its name**, your team scores **5 points**.

Write the animal's name in the appropriate column.

| Habitat | One of your Colors 1 point | Both of your Colors 3 points | Color in the Name 5 points | Total Points |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Asian Forest | | | | |
| African Savanna | | | | |

| Habitat | One of your Colors 1 point | Both of your Colors 3 points | Color in the Name 5 points | Total Points |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tropical Forest | | | | |
| Salt Water | | | | |
| Fresh Water | | | | |
| Arctic | | | | |

The habitat my team scored the most points in is _____.