Who Are Your Animal Neighbors Stuck at Home Too?

This is a great way to connect our lives back to what is happening in the natural world around us. Though our human lives have changed significantly during this period, our animal neighbors are continuing life as usual. We just get a chance to notice it more being home!

What you need: Paper, crayons, pencils or chalk, legos or blocks, tv or computer with internet connection

Activity 1—"The Master Homebuilder" - The Beaver

• Watch 6 minute video on how beavers build their homes—beginning at 43 minutes and going to 49 minutes
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BVW6eoe9bl
  
• Discussion Questions
  • What kinds of homes do beavers build?
  • How do they stay safe in their homes?
  • What do their kids do all day?
  • How do beavers homes help other animals?

Activity 2—Drawing A Home Floorplan

• Show students pictures of a floorplan for a house or draw a simple one for them to look at
  • Have students draw their own floorplan with a minimum of the following elements (or they can build their own house with blocks or legos), a place to cook, a place to keep food, a place to sleep, a source of water
  
• Discussion Questions
  • What things might be the same between human and animal homes?
  • What things might be different?
  • Do animals and humans live in the same areas? Which ones?

Activity 3—The Animal Neighborhood

• Have students pick some animals and draw floorplans for those animals (or build animal homes using legos or blocks)
  • Place the homes in a pretend neighborhood on the floor. Use carpet or mats to represent things like water, grass, trees, etc.
  
• Discussion Questions
  • How do certain animal homes help other animals?
  • Are certain animal homes competing for the same space?
  • What things do animals want to be close to?

Activity 4—Looking for Animal Homes

Take students out for an animal shelter walk in close proximity to their own house or apartment building. The following three areas should provide some conversation and learning opportunities:

• Any pond or stream—What species could live there and where? Collect questions from students in a journal and seek answers.
• The Trees—What animals could live in trees and how? Collect questions from students in a journal and seek answers.
• The Ground—What animals live in the ground and what makes them suited for that? Collect questions from students in a journal and seek answers.

Start keeping track of the animals that are neighbors with some daily checks. Do you see the same birds? The same squirrels? Could we do anything to help our animal neighborhood?