



Habitat Adventure

K-2nd Grade

Preparing for your Distance Learning Program





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Welcome and Need to Know Information

Dear Teacher,

This packet contains all the information you will need to prepare your students for a “Habitat Adventure” Distance Learning program with Glacier National Park.

The lesson plans and resources on pages 5-7 should answer most questions about program logistics, objectives, and schedules.

The rest of the lessons are meant to prepare students for the concepts and vocabulary highlighted during the program. Each activity can serve as a pre-visit introduction or a post-visit assessment/extension.

Be sure to confirm the date(s) and times for your Distance Learning program (received via email) are correct. There is no cost for this program.

The education ranger assigned to your group will email you before the program to arrange for a test call and answer any questions. You can also reach them at 406-888-7899.

Finally, this project and many other critical projects would not be possible without your donations to the Glacier Conservancy.

Glacier National Park
Education Staff



What is Distance Learning?

Glacier National Park protects some of our nation’s greatest treasures, and hosts nearly 3 million visitors a year. While its pristine location in the mountains of Northwest Montana provides spectacular scenery, it also proves tricky to visit; often requiring a long drive or flight.

Glacier’s Distance Learning Program strives to bring the experience and learning opportunities of this special place to classrooms around the country, providing interactive, curriculum based education programs to students of any age!





Background on Glacier National Park

Established in 1910, Glacier National Park is located in northwest Montana and is often referred to as the jewel of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem. Known to Native Americans as the “Shining Mountains” and the “Backbone of the World”, Glacier National Park preserves more than a million acres of forests, alpine meadows, lakes, rugged peaks, and glacial-carved valleys in the Northern Rocky Mountains. Its diverse habitats are home to nearly 70 species of mammals including the grizzly bear, wolverine, gray wolf, and lynx. Over 270 species of birds visit or reside in the park, including such varied species as harlequin ducks, dippers, and golden eagles. The landscape is a hiker’s paradise that is traversed by more than 740 miles of maintained trails. Glacier’s location at the headwaters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Hudson Bay drainages, in addition to its climate influences, have given rise to an incredible variety of plants and animals.

The park is named for its prominent glacier-carved terrain and remnant glaciers descended from the ice ages of 10,000 years past. Bedrock and deposited materials exposed by receding glaciers tell a story of ancient seas, geologic faults, and uplifting. The result of these combined forces is some of the most spectacular scenery on the planet.

In 1932, Glacier National Park and Canada’s Waterton Lakes National Park, adjacent to Glacier’s northern border, were designated Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. This designation celebrates the longstanding peace and friendship between the two nations. Both parks have since been designated International Biosphere Reserves and together were recognized in 1995 as a World Heritage Site.





Program Information

Lesson Overview

Glacier National Park is well known for its high biodiversity--from the tiny pika to the mighty grizzly bear. Glacier hosts such high diversity because it is the meeting point of several different eco-zones. In this program, Kindergarten through second graders will learn about four basic macro habitats found in Glacier--forests, meadows, lakes & streams, and mountains--and meet at least one animal that lives in each. They will also review what a habitat is and what all living things need to survive.

This is a highly interactive program. The ranger will lead a virtual “hike” and students will use hand motions and sounds to follow along. We hope they come prepared for an adventure, because you never know what you will see in the wild!

Essential Questions

What is a habitat?
What do living things need to survive?
Why is it important to protect habitats?

Vocabulary

Habitat, Adaptation, Herbivore, Carnivore, Omnivore, Food Chain

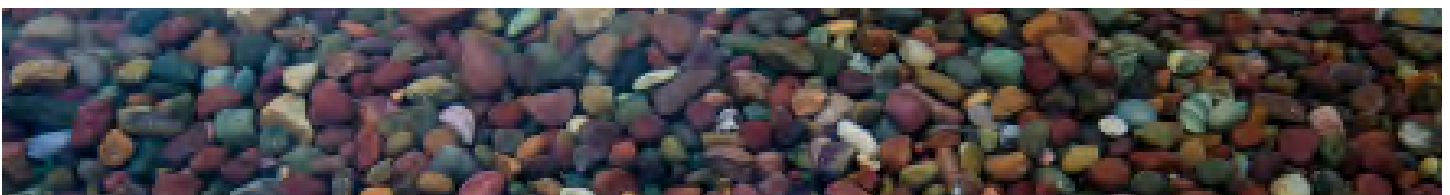
Vocabulary will vary for each program based on student questions.

Next Generation Science Standards

2-LS4-1 Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Lesson Objectives

At the end of this program, students will be able to:
Explain what a habitat is.
Describe 4 habitats found in Glacier and an animal that lives in each.
Tell some ways to stay safe while hiking.





Suggested Lesson Sequence

Pre-Program Lesson	Complete “Habitat is Home” lesson compare humans homes with animal habitats.
During the Program	30 minute interactive virtual program
Post-Program Lesson	Reserach animals that live in habitats near you. Or play “Is There Room For Everybody?” to learn about carrying capacity.



Pre-Program Lesson

Habitat is Home

Time 30 minutes

Materials Pictures of human and animal homes
Drawing paper and pencils/colors for each student

Procedure Discuss human homes and the things usually found there. Have the students draw the inside of a home--include places to eat, sleep, and play. Have them share their pictures with classmates. Next show pictures of animal homes. Discuss the differences between student homes and wild animal homes (ex: animals may have to use a much larger area to find all four parts of habitat--food, water, shelter, & space). For reflection, have students design their own made-up animal and draw the habitat it needs.

During the Distance Learning Program

Habitat Adventure

Time 30 minutes

Getting Ready Student Volunteers: Students will interact with the ranger during the program, but the ranger will rely on you to call on students directly.

Establish video conference connection: Prior to the program, you and the ranger will decide who is hosting the program. If you are the host, please email the connection link at least 15 minutes ahead of time. If the ranger is hosting, we will email a connection link at least 15 minutes prior to the program. Make sure your connection is up and running before beginning the session with the education ranger.



During the Distance Learning Program (continued)

Procedure

Orient your students:

Before connecting, show students the set-up and go over any standards of behavior that students should follow during the session. Remind them that the ranger may not be able to see everyone in the classroom, so they should look to you as an intermediary when they want to make a comment or ask a question.

Connect with Glacier:

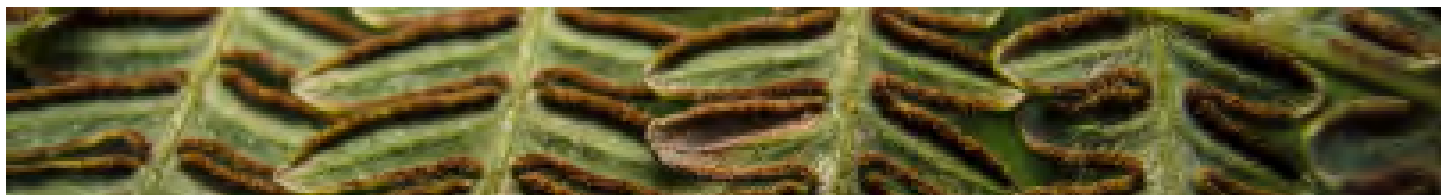
At the designated time, use video conferencing software to connect with the education staff. The program is designed for 30 minutes, but can go a little longer if students have questions and you have time.

Let the communication begin!

Please be available to the education staff during the entire length of the program. At the end of the program be ready to help facilitate questions.

After the program:

Take some time after the program for students to discuss and provide feedback about their experience. Let them know that if they have further questions for the education staff, they can contact us at:
glac_education@nps.gov



Post-Program Lesson

What Lives Near You?

Time

60 minutes

Materials

Paper, coloring materials, computer, books

Procedure

As a class or individuals, research an animal(s) that lives near you. Discuss what type of habitat each animal would live in and what food, water, shelter & space these animals need. Do these animals have adaptations, or special body parts, to help them survive in their unique habitat?

Have each students draw their animal in its habitat.

Extension: Play [Is There Room for Everybody?](#) from our website.