

Animal Neighbors

by Nic Bishop

Summary

Many different animals find food and shelter in our backyards. This text explores the compost pile, tree, and garage habitats and introduces some of the animals that live in these places.

Features of the Text

- Contents page, glossary, index
- Fact boxes
- Photographs and illustrations with captions
- Report structure
- Specialized vocabulary – *adapted, camouflage, decomposing, environment, foliage, habitat, nutrients, pincers, predators, prey*

Purpose

Animal Neighbors can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- S** gathering information from written and visual text;
- S** summarizing and restating information;
- S** interpreting science in an authentic context;
- S** using the contents page, glossary, and index to deepen understanding.

The Guided Reading Lesson

- S** Gathering information from written and visual text
- S** Summarizing and restating information

Introducing the text

With the students, look at the cover of the book.

- *What do you know about the animals on the cover?*
- *What relationship do they have with the house?*

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 45 to list and describe the animals found in each backyard habitat
- use the chart on page 8 of the book as a model to present information about another animal habitat
- write speech bubbles between two animals discussing the advantages and disadvantages of their habitat.

Turn to the contents page. Explain that this book looks at three different backyard habitats. Then ask the students to turn to page 2.

- *Where does the text explain what "habitat" means?*

Look at the pictures on pages 2 to 4 and discuss what a compost pile is.

Ask the students to predict what animals they might find in each of the three habitats and why.

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read pages 2 and 3.

- *What three important things does an animal need to survive?*

The students can now read pages 4 to 8.

- *What animals live in a compost pile?*
- *How are they suited to this habitat?*
- *What does the statement "Compost creatures are nature's recyclers" mean?*

Discuss animal predators and ask the students to suggest some examples.

Look at the photographs on page 9.

- *Why is this a good habitat for these animals?*

Ask the students to read pages 9 to 12 and to think about how animals that live in trees camouflage themselves.

- *What is meant by "keeping the balance"?*

Identify the animals in the photographs on pages 14 and 15.

- *Why do you think a garage habitat suits these animals?*

When the students have read pages 13 to 15, ask them to summarize the information in their own words.

