

**Unit Name/Theme:** Water/What lives there?

**What are we doing?** Children will be exploring what lives in the water and what lives near the water.

**Purpose/Why?** Children will be learning that animals live in different habitats but that all animals need water to survive. The skills children will be working on are sorting, comparison, and observation.

**Materials:**

Provided:

- Collection of animal manipulatives that live in the region, both on land and in the water.
- Magnifying glasses

**Books:**

"I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean" by Kevin Sherry

"Fish Eyes" by Lois Ehlert

"Water Can Be" by Laura Purdie Salas



**Quick Start:**

Set out the animals. Talk about animals and where they live. Have the children sort the animals based on whether they think they live on land or in the water.



**Deeper Dive:**

Talk about what the animals that live on land have in common, and what the animals that live in water have in common. If there is stagnant water nearby that has insects, get a sample and have children use the magnifying glasses to take a closer look at the life in the water sample. What do the insects have in common with other animals that live in the water?

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**Ask a Question:**

- What kinds of animals live on land?
- What kind of animals live in the water?
- What do you see in the water sample?
- What animals have you seen in the land/in the water?



**Vocabulary Builder:**

- Habitat
- Wildlife
- River
- Lake
- Stream
- Puddle
- Pond

**Other Activities:** Take a nature walk and look for animals or signs that animals have been in the area (examples may be feathers, nests, tracks, droppings, holes in the ground or trees) Have the children look for water that may be nearby where they see the wildlife. Have them look under leaves, in puddles, or near rocks. Look for a pond, stream, or lake nearby. What else may be nearby that has water (bird bath, sprinklers, park)? If you do not see water, ask the children where they think the animals get water?