

## Animal Habitats and Diets: Now and in a Warmer Future

### Station Rotation Activity for Grades 4–5



#### Overview

In this interactive lesson, students explore where three animals live around the world—green sea turtles, moose, and honey bees—and how climate change might influence their habitats and food sources. Students rotate through three stations and make predictions about how warming temperatures could affect where animals live and what they eat.

#### Grade Level

Grades 4–5

#### Duration

25–35 minutes

#### Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Identify where **green sea turtles, moose, and honey bees** live around the world.
- Understand that animals depend on **specific habitats and food sources**.
- Predict how animals might **shift habitats as temperatures warm**.
- Explore how climate change could influence **animal diets and ecosystems**.

#### Materials

For each student:

- Station worksheet (double-sided)
  - Side 1: World map habitat activity
  - Side 2: Animal diet activity
- Colored pencils or crayons:
  - Green
  - Brown
  - Yellow

For the teacher

- 3 station signs or posters:
  - Green Sea Turtle Station
  - Moose Station
  - Honey Bee Station
- Timer set to **2-3 minutes**, depending on group sizes
- Answer key for discussion

**Step 1: Introduction (5 minutes)**

Begin by asking students:

**Where do moose, green sea turtles and honey bees live, and why do they live there?**

Explain that animals depend on:

- climate
- habitat
- food

Tell students they will investigate **three animals from different parts of the world** and make predictions about how warming temperatures might change where animals live and what they eat.

**Part 1: Habitat Mapping Activity**

Students receive the **world map worksheet (Side 1)**.

Each animal is represented by a color:

Animal	Color
Green Sea Turtle	Green
Moose	Brown
Honey Bees	Yellow

Students rotate through the three stations.

Instructions at Each Station

The teacher briefly explains where the animal lives.

Students then **shade those areas on their map** using the color assigned to that animal.

Example information to share:

**Green Sea Turtles**

- Warm tropical and subtropical oceans
- Often near coral reefs and seagrass beds

**Moose**

- Cold northern forests
- Canada, Alaska, Scandinavia, and Russia

**Honey Bees**

- Found on most continents except Antarctica
- Live in areas with many flowering plants

As an added effect, provide 3 bluetooth speakers with ambient sounds representing each habitat.

Prediction Question:

After students shade habitats, ask:

**“If the planet gets a little warmer, where might these animals move?”**

Part 2: Animal Food Activity

Students flip to **Side 2 of the worksheet**.

This page contains pictures of possible foods animals might eat.

Rotation Structure

Students rotate through the stations **one additional time**.

Rotation 2 (2-3 minutes per station)

Students:

- Circle or shade foods green sea turtles, moose and honey bees eat.

Final Discussion and Answer Reveal

After the rotations, gather the class.

The teacher reveals the correct information and discusses student predictions.

Example discussion points:

**Moose**

- Eat leaves, twigs, and aquatic plants
- Prefer cold northern forests

**Green Sea Turtles**

- Eat seagrass, algae, and sometimes jellyfish
- Depend on warm ocean habitats

**Honey Bees**

- Collect nectar and pollen from flowers
- Depend on healthy plant ecosystems

Students compare their predictions with the answers. Reference provided answer key on resource page.

**If desired, students may correct their work on a new worksheet.**

Reflection Questions:

Ask students to discuss:

- Which animal might move the **farthest** if temperatures warm?
- Which animal might have the **hardest time finding food**?
- **Why are habitats important for animals?**

Extension Activity (Optional)

Students complete the sentence:

**"If the climate changes, I think the \_\_\_\_\_ might move to \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."**

**Students may also draw a picture showing an animal in its future habitat.**

Key Concept

Animals depend on **climate, habitat, and food sources**.

When climates change, animals may need to **move, adapt, or change their diets** in order to survive.