



# When Habitats Change

## ***Grade Level***

Grade 2

## ***Objectives***

This activity is designed to start your at-home student(s) in recognizing themselves as a scientist and in thinking critically about problem solving. The goal is to teach concepts through discovery and to encourage using scientific thought processes. Feel free to adapt the lesson provided to better suit your students' abilities. Take these ideas, make them your own, and your student will have a greater chance of success.

## ***Background Information***

All living things (such as, animals and humans) have basic needs (food, water, shelter and space). It is important that living things get these needs fulfilled in their habitats. If the habitat changes and these basic needs can no longer be met, some animals may become extinct. There are things that we can do to make sure that habitats continue to provide basic needs for animals that depend on them.

Key vocabulary:

- Endangered – any species that is at risk of becoming extinct because of a sudden rapid decrease in its population or loss of critical habitat
- Habitat – the place where an organism lives and can find everything it needs to survive
- Extinct – a species, family or other larger group that is no longer in existence
- Ecosystem – a community of organisms and the environment in which they live

## ***Procedures***

1. Begin this activity by asking if your at-home student can identify the basic needs of all living things. Confirm these basic needs (food, water, shelter and space) and that these needs are important for survival. Discuss the vocabulary words included in the “Background Information” section and ensure that your student understands their definitions.
2. Explain that they will be doing an activity to compare how an animal alive today meets their basic needs in their habitat, and how an extinct animal met their basic needs in their habitat before their environment changed.

3. Give your at-home student the “What Happens When Habitats Change” activity sheets.
4. Students should begin researching how a woolly mammoth met each basic need when it was alive, and fill in each box in the corresponding column of the activity sheet.
5. Next, students should research how the habitat or surrounding environment of the woolly mammoth changed. Encourage students to take notes and/or discuss their findings, and ask questions.
6. Students should then complete the next column on the woolly mammoth activity sheet, first answering the question if the mammoth could still meet each basic need after the habitat change, then explaining how, or how not.
7. Together, discuss how the changes that occurred in the woolly mammoth’s environment eventually led to their extinction and why.
8. Ask students to recall what they have learned about ancestors, and discuss what similarities the woolly mammoth and current elephants have in common. Could the mammoth be an ancestor to current elephants alive today? Discuss this together and write down any notes or questions to review after the activity if desired.
9. Next move to the African elephant activity sheet and explain to your students that they will do a similar activity to complete the chart with an African elephant.
10. Students should research how an African elephant meets its basic needs in its habitat, and complete the first column of the activity sheet.
11. Next, students should think about what would happen if each basic need became unavailable in the African elephants environment, and completed the second column. Encourage them to compare this scenario to the woolly mammoth.
12. In the third column, students should think about something that can be done to make sure that the need is available for the animal now and in the future.
13. After completing the activity sheets, discuss how important it is for an animals’ basic needs to be met to ensure their survival. Also, discuss what happens when these needs are no longer met (extinction) and ways that we can help animals survive.

### ***Standards***

<b>Ohio Academic Content Standards</b>	
Grade 2 Life Science Topic: Interactions within Habitats	All organisms alive today result from their ancestors, some of which may be extinct. Not all kinds of organisms that lived in the past are represented by living organisms today.

# What Happens When Habitats Change?

## Woolly Mammoth

	When the woolly mammoth was alive, how did it meet its basic needs in its habitat where it lived?	When the woolly mammoths' environment changed, could it meet its basic needs? How or how not?
FOOD		
WATER		
SHELTER		
SPACE		

# What Happens When Habitats Change?

## African Elephant

	How does an African elephant meet its basic needs in its habitat?	What would happen if this basic need was no longer available in the habitat?	What can we do to make sure the habitat keeps providing everything needed by the elephants?
FOOD			
WATER			
SHELTER			
SPACE			