



## **Critter Close-Up**

Auditorium Program for Grades 6-8

Students learn about the basic elements needed to make up a habitat. They meet live animals who make their homes in a variety of habitats, such as deserts, forests and wetlands and become acquainted with the unique adaptations those animals have evolved to survive.

**Lesson:** Learn about habitats and some unique adaptations animals use to survive.

**Conservation Message:** All life on Earth exists as part of an ecosystem.

### **Curriculum Objectives:**

**Tennessee** students will apply the following **Science Curriculum Performance Indicators:**

- Identify several reasons for the importance of maintaining the Earth's biodiversity.
- Analyze structural, behavioral and physiological adaptations to predict which populations will survive in a particular environment.
- Identify the environmental conditions and interdependencies among organisms found in the major biomes.

**Georgia** students will apply the following **Science Performance Standards:**

- Students will examine the dependence of organisms on one another and their environments.
- Students will investigate the diversity of living organisms and how they adapt to their environment.

**Alabama** students will apply the following **Science Course of Study Content Standards:**

- Describe Earth's biomes.
- Describe biotic and abiotic factors in the environment.

All students will apply the following **National Science Education Content Standards:**

- Develop an understanding of populations and ecosystems.
- Develop an understanding of diversity and adaptations of organisms.
- Develop an understanding of structure and function in living systems.



Visit the Tennessee Aquarium Education Department's website

<http://www.tnaqua.org/Education/>



## Critter Close-up Activity Sheet

*Use the code at the bottom to decipher the underlined vocabulary words.*

1. 8-1-3-9-20-1-20 - The immediate space where an animal or plant lives and has food, water, shelter and space. 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. 1-4-1-16-20-1-20-9-15-14 - An alteration or adjustment in structure or habits, often hereditary, by which a species or individual improves its condition in relationship to its environment. 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. 5-14-22-9-18-15-14-13-9-14-20 - Sum total of all surroundings of a living organism, including natural forces and other living things, which provide conditions for development and growth as well as of danger and damage. 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_
4. 5-3-15-19-25-19-20-5-13 - A complex set of relationships of living organisms functioning as a unit and interacting with their physical environment. 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_
5. 3-1-13-15-21-6-12-1-7-5 - To conceal by the use of disguise or by protective coloring that blends in with the surrounding environment. 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
6. \_\_\_\_\_
6. 3-8-1-18-1-3-20-5-18-9-19-20-9-3-19 - A distinguishing feature or quality of an organism that helps to define, identify or describe it. 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_
7. 2-9-15-4-9-22-5-18-19-9-20-25 - The variety of life on Earth. "Bio" means life and "diversity" means variety. 7. \_\_\_\_\_  
8. \_\_\_\_\_
8. 5-14-4-1-14-7-5-18-5-4 - A species or ecosystem that is so reduced or delicate that it is threatened with or on the verge of extinction. 8. \_\_\_\_\_  
9. \_\_\_\_\_
9. 16-18-5-4-1-20-9-15-14 - A mode of life in which food is primarily obtained by the killing and consuming of animals. 9. \_\_\_\_\_  
10. \_\_\_\_\_
10. 18-1-9-14-6-15-18-5-19-20 - Forests characterized by high rainfall, with a minimum annual rainfall between 68-78 inches. 10. \_\_\_\_\_

1=A 2=B 3=C 4=D 5=E 6=F 7=G 8=H 9=I 10=J 11=K 12=L 13=M 14=N 15=O  
16=P 17=Q 18=R 19=S 20=T 21=U 22=V 23=W 24=X 25=Y 26=Z



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