Lesson Plan: Habitat and the Animals That Depend On It

Lower primary (ages 5-8). One 45-minute lesson including a short outdoor habitat walk.

At a glance

- **Ages:** 5-8 (lower primary).
- **Length:** one 45-minute lesson, plus a short outdoor walk.
- **Subject links:** science (living things and their habitats), literacy (listening and speaking), art.
- **You will need:** a read-aloud copy of Pango's Secret Armor or the reading guide; large paper; crayons; outdoor space.

Learning intentions

1. Say what a habitat is, in their own words.
2. Name three things every animal needs from its habitat.
3. Point to one habitat near the school and say who lives there.
4. Name one way to look after it.

Sequence

1. Circle question - 5 minutes

"If you had to sleep outside tonight, what would you need?" Collect answers: food, water, somewhere safe, somewhere dry. Write them up. Tell the class that animals need exactly the same four things, and the place that gives them is called a habitat.

2. Read aloud - 12 minutes

Read the story, or use the Before / While / After prompts in the reading guide. Pause once to ask what Pango's habitat gives Pango.

3. Habitat sort - 10 minutes

Draw four boxes on the board: FOOD, WATER, SHELTER, SPACE. Children call out things a pangolin needs (ants and termites, water, a burrow or hollow, quiet ground to dig) and you place each one in a box. Repeat for a familiar local animal - a garden bird, a squirrel, a lizard.

4. Habitat walk - 12 minutes, outdoors

Walk to one patch of ground: a hedge, a flower bed, a tree, a puddle. Stand still for one minute and listen. Ask who lives here and which of the four boxes this place fills.

5. Draw and promise - 6 minutes

Each child draws the patch they visited and adds one creature. Underneath, they finish the sentence: *I will look after this by...*

Assessment

- **Emerging:** names one thing an animal needs.
- **Secure:** names a local habitat and one animal that uses it.
- **Extending:** explains what would happen to that animal if the habitat were removed.

Teacher notes and cautions

- Keep it local and concrete. At this age, a hedge outside the window teaches habitat better than a rainforest.
- Avoid frightening framing. The message is that places can be looked after, and children can help look after them.
- Do not invent facts about pangolins to fill a gap. If a child asks something you cannot answer, write the question down and look it up together on the species profiles.
- Safety: keep to known ground, no handling of animals or insects.

Pango is an illustrated character created for this project, not a wildlife photograph. Every factual statement here comes from the canonical, sourced species records on endangeredspecies.humanity-project.org/species. Free to copy and print for classroom, church, youth-group, and family use.