Practical activity ideas

Notes for the teacher - If your children need to review their learning, you can use these activities to support them

Animal survival suitcase

The resources required for this activity include animal picture cards, picture cards of food, water, air, shelter and non-essential items and trays or envelopes.

Activity: Children choose an animal and select only the items that animal would need to survive, placing them in its 'survival suitcase'. They explain their choices to a partner and compare different animals.

This activity helps children identify and classify survival needs and recognise that all animals share the same basic needs.

Needs around me

The resources required for this activity include paper, crayons or pencils and animal or human picture prompts.

Activity: Children draw a picture of an animal or human and draw only the things it needs to survive around it. They discuss why other items were not included.

This activity supports visual thinking and helps children distinguish 'needs' from 'wants'.

Shelter spotters

The resources required for this activity include photos of animals and their shelters, pencils and sticky notes.

Activity: Children match the shelters to the animals and discuss what the shelter does. They can add sticky note labels with their ideas.

This activity helps children understand the role of shelters in animal survival.

Build a living thing

The resources required for this activity include construction materials and basic needs labels.

Activity: Children build a model of an animal or human and label its needs.

This activity links physical models to scientific concepts.

Explain it to Calvin

The resources required for this activity include a picture of Calvin the zoologist, speech bubble templates and pencils.

Activity: Children explain animal survival needs to Calvin using labelled drawings or sentences.

This activity supports reflection and scientific communication.