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Extension - Elkhart County



# Mini 4-H

# WILDLIFE



## An Introduction to 4-H for Youth in Grades K - 2

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Developed by Purdue Extension – Elkhart County  
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**Elkhart County Mini 4-H Wildlife Manual**  
**Revised October 2024**



# **4-H Facts**



**The 4-H Symbol:** A four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf.

**4-H Colors:** Green and White

**The 4-H Motto:** To make the best better!

**The 4-H Pledge:**

I Pledge  
My Head to clearer thinking  
My Heart to greater loyalty  
My Hands to larger service  
My Health to better living  
For my Club,  
My Community,  
My Country,  
and my World.



# Mini 4-H



**Welcome** to *Mini 4-H*! You are now a member of the Elkhart County 4-H family! We hope that you will have lots of fun learning new things in your 4-H career.

*Mini 4-H* is designed for youth in Kindergarten through Second grade. It will give you a taste of the 4-H program as well as help you to explore a variety of project areas.

*Mini 4-H*ers may enroll in two different projects each year. This manual contains fun, age appropriate activities to complete throughout the 4-H year. These activities will help you to learn about the project you have chosen. Additionally, the manual contains all instructions needed for the exhibit you will be preparing for the Elkhart County 4-H Fair in July.

There is no competition in the Mini 4-H program. Each child who completes a project for the Fair will receive the same green completion ribbon and certificate. Judges comment sheets are provided only as a way to help you do your very best on future projects.

*Mini 4-H* does not have regular monthly meetings. Try to attend the special activities planned especially for YOU! These will give you a chance to meet the project leaders, have some hands-on fun, and ask questions about your important Fair display. *Mini 4-H* is FUN! You will enjoy it.

Once you enter the third grade you can join a regular 4-H club that meets monthly. You must enroll each year of your 4-H career.

If you have questions about the *Mini 4-H* program, please call the Purdue Extension Elkhart County office at 574-533-0554. We will be happy to answer your questions.

**As a Mini 4-H parent, please help guide and encourage your child through the activities. Work with them to help them “learn by doing”. Activities are designed to help your child learn about the project they have chosen. It is not required that they complete all the activities in this manual. Choose those that interest you and your child.**



## What is Wildlife?



Animals that are not cared for by humans are called wildlife. Wildlife can be as small as an ant or a hummingbird or as large as a moose or an elephant.



### ACTIVITY 1 – WILD ANIMALS IN INDIANA

There are many wild animals in Indiana. The largest is the white-tailed deer. Your backyard is a good place to start looking for wildlife. Other places you could visit with an adult might be woods, rivers or lakes. Parks usually have lots of wildlife and nice trails to walk on while you look.

Many people keep journals to remind them of the places they visit. Visit several places if you can and write about and/or draw pictures of what you see.

**Materials needed for this activity:** pencil

**What you will do:**

1. Look around and think about the wild animals that live in Indiana.
2. Answer the following questions.

***Can you name wildlife that live in Indiana?***

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**What did you learn?**

Name one wild animal that lives near your home. \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there another wild animal near your home? Which one? \_\_\_\_\_

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## ACTIVITY 2 – WHAT DO WILDLIFE NEED?

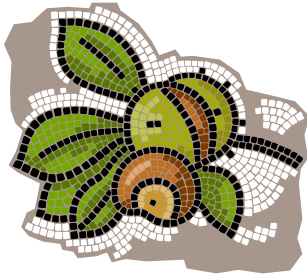
You may have a pet or you may know someone who does. People must do many things to care for their pets. People who own pets must be sure they have the right kind of food, water to drink, a place protected from the weather (shelter) and room to exercise. These are basic needs for animals.

A wild animal needs to be free and should never be kept as a pet!

**Materials needed for this activity:**      Activity sheets      Pencil

### **What you will do:**

1. Think about the things wildlife need every day.
2. Label the drawings. Write food, water or shelter on the line under the pictures.



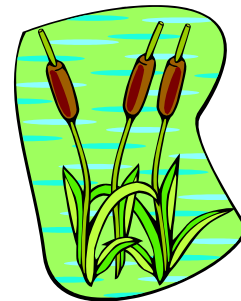
1. \_\_\_\_\_



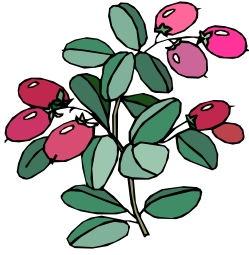
2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



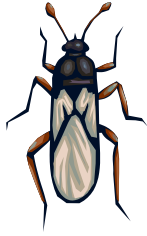
4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_

**What did you learn?**

What animal might live in a tree? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you see any wildlife homes near your home? What? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## ACTIVITY 3 – HABITATS

A habitat has everything needed for that animal to survive. Wildlife is considered a natural resource. Other natural resources are the plants, trees, soil and water that make habitats for wildlife.

Habitats must include food, water, shelter and space in a suitable arrangement for survival.

There are many different kinds of habitats. Different animals like different places to live.

## Habitats

**Wetland:** An example of this would be a swamp or marsh. Animals living in a wetland like a lot of mud but do not live under water.

**Woodland:** An example of a woodland would be a forest with many trees and shade.

**Meadow:** A lot of tall grasses would be found in a meadow. There would be a lot of sun there.

**Lake:** Many animals live in the water or like to spend a lot of their time in the water. These animals would like to live in or near a lake.

**Materials needed for this activity:**      Activity page      Pencil

### **What you will do:**

1. Look at the animals and their needs listed here.
2. Fill in the chart for each animal. What are the basic needs for each animal?

### **Can you match the animals with their habitats?**

Animal	Food	Water	Shelter	Space

#### **Animal**

squirrel  
minnow  
turtle  
quail

#### **Food**

insects  
small plants  
seeds  
acorns

#### **Water Source**

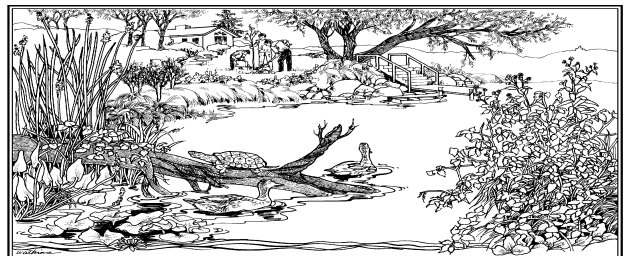
lake  
dew  
puddles  
marsh

#### **Shelter**

under a lily pad  
tree  
mud  
tall grass

#### **Space**

wetland  
woodland  
meadow  
lake





**Answers for Can you match the animals with their habitats? Page 8**

Squirrel – acorns, puddles, tree, woodland  
Turtle – insects, marsh, mud, wetlands

Minnow – small plants, lake, lily pad, lake  
Quail – seeds, dew, tall grass, meadow

**What did you learn?**

Can you list some other examples of wildlife food? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sources of water? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Places used for shelter? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## **ACTIVITY 4 – WILDLIFE IS EVERYWHERE**

Ask permission to go outside and look for signs of wildlife. Find examples of things that animals have used things for food, water or shelter.

Look for leaves with bites taken out of them or shells of nuts on the ground.

You may see a nest, a piece of fur stuck in a fence or even a footprint in the mud.

**Materials needed for this activity:**      Activity sheet    Pencil    Crayons

**What you will do:**

1. Take a walk in the park or the yard and look for animal signs.
2. Write about or draw pictures of the animals you saw or the signs of animals you saw.

**Use this space to write about or draw pictures of the animals or signs of animals that you saw.**

### **What did you learn?**

What animal did you see? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you see this animal? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you see another animal? \_\_\_\_\_

What animal? \_\_\_\_\_



## **ACTIVITY 5 – ANIMAL HOMES**

Many small animals make their homes in branches of trees or live in a hole in the trunk of a tree. Have you ever seen a hole in a tree? Take a walk in a park, woods, neighborhood or school yard and look for animals that use trees for their homes. Look for a bird nest or a home where a squirrel, raccoon or hive of bees might live.

***You should never disturb a wild animal in their home. You could be injured if you get too near a beehive or other wild animal's home.***

### **Materials needed for this activity:**

activity sheet  
magazines

pencil  
glue

crayons      scissors  
paper or poster board

### **What you will do:**

1. Make a poster with pictures cut from magazines (ask permission) or pictures you have taken with a camera of animals that make their homes in trees.
2. An alternate activity is to draw and color a picture of an animal and its home in a tree. An example would be a bird in a nest or a raccoon or a squirrel in a hole in a tree.

### **What did you learn?**

What animal did you choose to illustrate? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you seen this animal in nature? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_



## **ACTIVITY 6 – ANIMAL FOOTPRINTS**

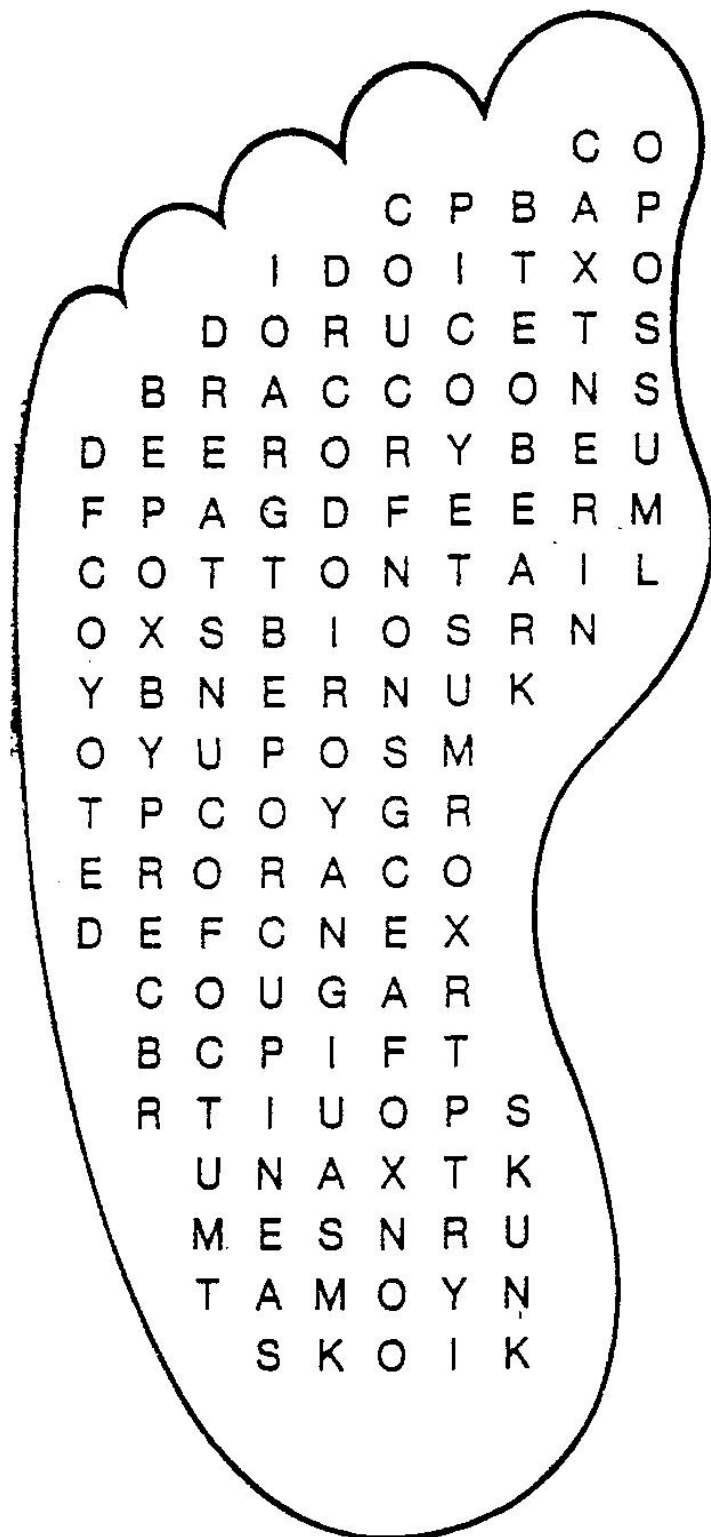
Many times we know an animal lives in a habitat because we see their footprints. Naturalists can identify an animal by their unique footprints.











**Materials needed for this activity:**      Activity sheet      Pencil

### **What you will do:**

1. Look at the animal footprints illustrated in the word search on the following page.
2. Find the animal names in the word search.





	DEER
COUGAR	
	OPOSSUM
COYOTE	
	COTTONTAIL
BEAR	
	FOX
PORCUPINE	
	RACCOON
SKUNK	

**What did you learn?**

What did you notice about the pictures of the animal footprints? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you seen any of these prints in nature? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the print that you saw below.

What kind of an animal left the print? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you see the animals that left the prints? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think you could identify the animal from their footprints? \_\_\_\_\_



# What to Exhibit

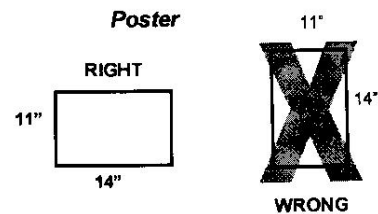
## ***WILDLIFE***

Choose an animal that you have seen in Indiana and complete one of the following for your 4-H Fair exhibit.

1. Make a Wildlife poster. Your poster must be exactly 11 x 14 inches, displayed horizontally (wider than it is tall) and attached to a stiff backing (like cardboard). You may use foam board. Foam board is already stiff and does not require additional backing. Your poster must be covered with clear plastic. This can be a poster sleeve. If you have made a three dimensional item, you may use clear vinyl. Your poster must have a title.

**NOTE:** No oversize posters will be accepted for exhibition.

No un-mounted items will be accepted for exhibition.



This poster must tell about the animal you have chosen. You may use words, photos, and pictures from magazines or your own drawings to show:

- the animal
- the kind of shelter it uses
- the food it eats
- what kind of space it uses as a habitat
- the animal's source of water

2. A *diorama* in a standard-size shoebox, illustrating your animal and its habitat. Your diorama should illustrate the same facts about your animal listed in #1 above. You must cover the front of the diorama with clear plastic.

**NOTE:** If you are unable to pick your project up on Project Release Day, please make arrangements to have it picked up. All projects must be removed from the exhibit building on that day. There is no available storage space for unclaimed projects.

**All posters must include: (both are found on page 16)**

- Record Sheet (attached to the back of the poster or under the diorama)
- Exhibit Tag (attached in the lower right front corner of the poster or diorama)

## Exhibit Tag:

<b>Mini 4-H</b>						<b>Wildlife</b>
	<b>Name</b>		<b>City</b>		<b>Grade</b>	
					<b>School</b>	

## Record Sheet

----- Cut here -----

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

The animal that I chose (*type of animal*). \_\_\_\_\_

List some of the things that your animal needs to survive. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where does your animal live? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe your animal's habitat. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_