

**Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.**

## Activity: Wildlife web explorers

Using the internet to research favourite topics is a good way to introduce children to the wonders of the world wide web in a safe and age-appropriate manner.

### Learning aims

- Introduce basic research skills
- Introduce the basics of digital devices and navigating the internet in a safe manner
- Communication skills – sharing findings with others
- Develop an awareness of different animals and their habitats
- Use the information in a variety of creative ways.



### Resources

- Digital device with internet access
- A variety of materials for possible follow-up creative activities.

### Activity outline

1. Engaging children in internet use requires careful consideration of their developmental stage, focus and safety. Ensure you check the websites prior to the children accessing them and closely supervise their online activity
2. Discuss animals and their habitats. Find out what they know already and ask if they know where we can find out more information about animals and where they live. If not already suggested, tell them the internet is a good place to search for information. Ask the children what they understand by the word 'internet'
3. There are some great websites with photos and videos about animals. National Geographic, Kids has a lot of useful information <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/>
4. Discuss the characteristics of the animals, the features of the environment they live in and any facts the children find interesting e.g. Arctic foxes have small ears and that this reduces heat loss because they have less ear to be exposed to the cold
5. Once the children have gathered information, they will be motivated to use it in some way perhaps through creating a story about their chosen animal and acting it out with props, puppets, masks etc.

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The role-play corner could become a habitat for a chosen animal or a vets. Small world play could incorporate animals alongside resources to build habitats such as small blocks, twigs, foliage, small mirrors etc. Create sensory bins related to the animal habitats e.g. sand for the desert, water for the ocean

6. Create an art space where children can create their own animals using a variety of materials and display them
7. Encourage children to imitate the movements and sounds of the animals they have researched. Play games such as 'What am I?' where children imitate an animal and others guess what it is
8. Sing songs and rhymes about animals and research new ones using the internet.

### Extension ideas:

- Along with information on internet safety, share the research links to the children's favourite websites with parents/carers so that children can keep researching and gathering information and knowledge
- Use the internet to research other topics of interest.

### NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [Vocabulary and Early Language Skills](#) – online course