



NATURE & ART

ANIMAL HOMES

Age group: 2nd-5th

Created by MOSS Instructors Hannah Stewart
and Emily Branigan



Lesson Overview

This lesson will teach children about what an animal needs to survive: food, water, and shelter. Kids will be able to observe what types of animals live in their neighborhood, and use their creativity to build a home that will meet that animal's needs. This activity is all about combining art and nature exploration!

There are 6 steps to this lesson (page 3-6), and a printable workbook (page 7-11).

Age Group: 2nd-5th

Time: 1.5 hours

Materials: workbook (or paper), pencil, materials of choice to build your animal home, i.e. cardboard, play-dough, rocks, sticks, hot glue, etc.

Instructions

Step 1

Draw a picture of where you live! What are your favorite parts of your home? Your room? Your backyard? In your drawing include things that you need to survive, such as a warm bed to sleep in and food to eat. **Parents: there is an optional printable workbook below.**



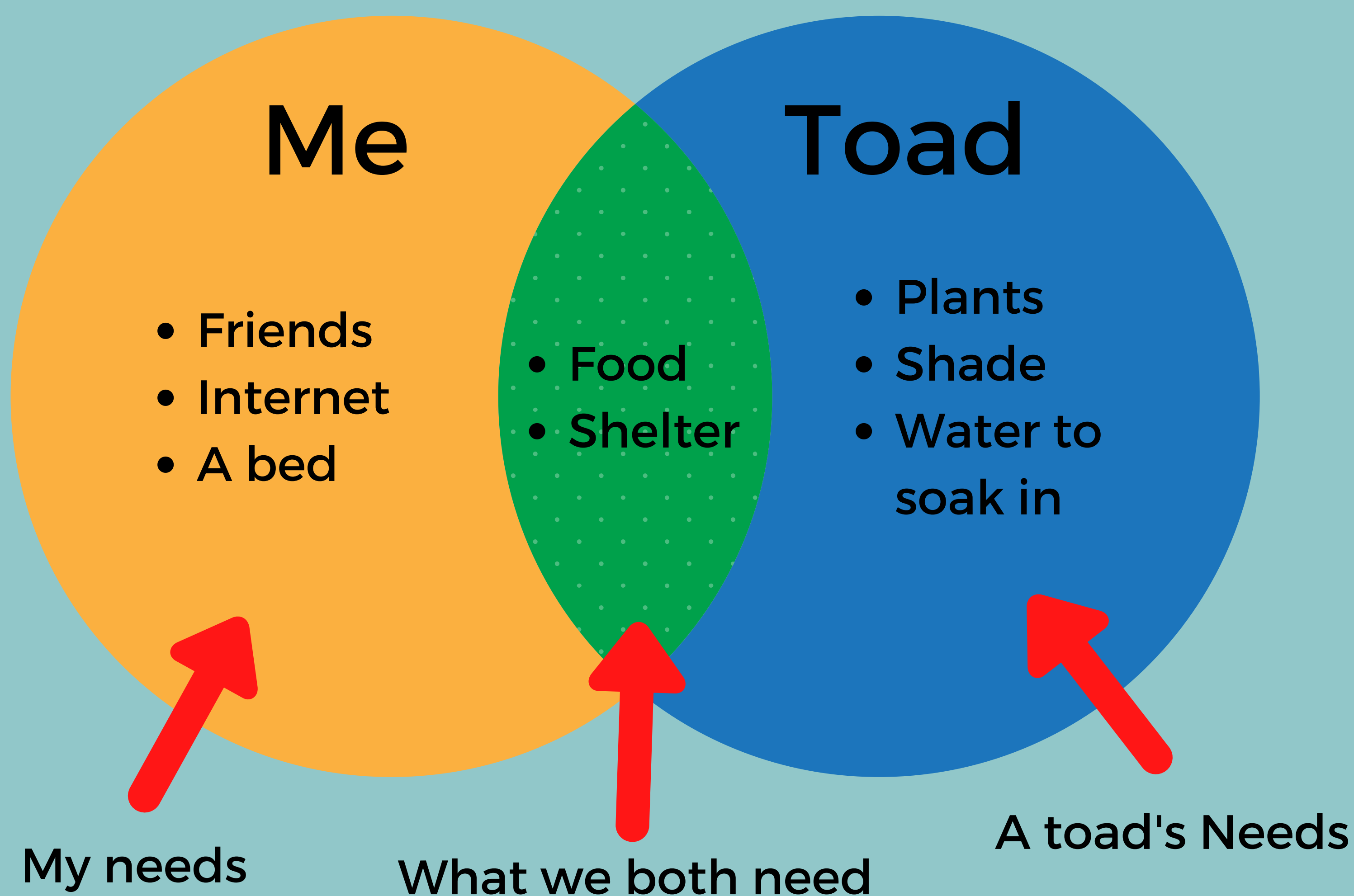
Step 2

Go outside near your home for 15 minutes. You could go to the park, your backyard, or even the sidewalk in front of your home. Make sure you bring an adult with you! Look and listen for signs of animals. Do you see any squirrels? Can you hear any birds? Do you see any footprints or poop? Record in your workbook or a journal any animals you see, hear or notice around you. Write down which animals you saw and where they were.



Step 3

Go back inside. Think about all of the animals that you saw and choose your favorite one. Compare the drawing of where you live with your observations of where the animal that you chose lives. Create a Venn Diagram that compares what you need to live with what your animal needs to live.



Venn Diagram

Step 4

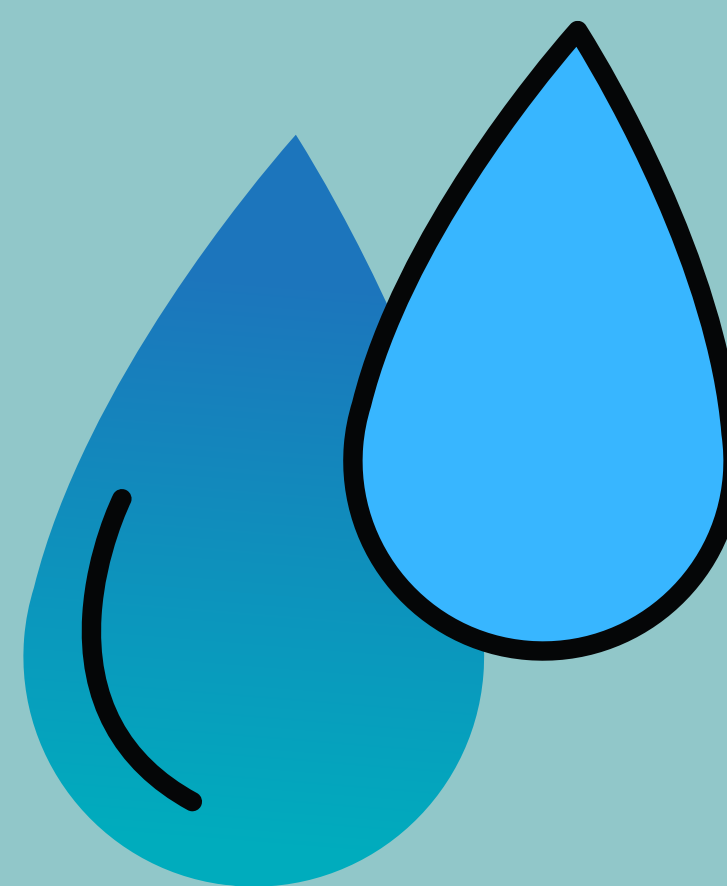
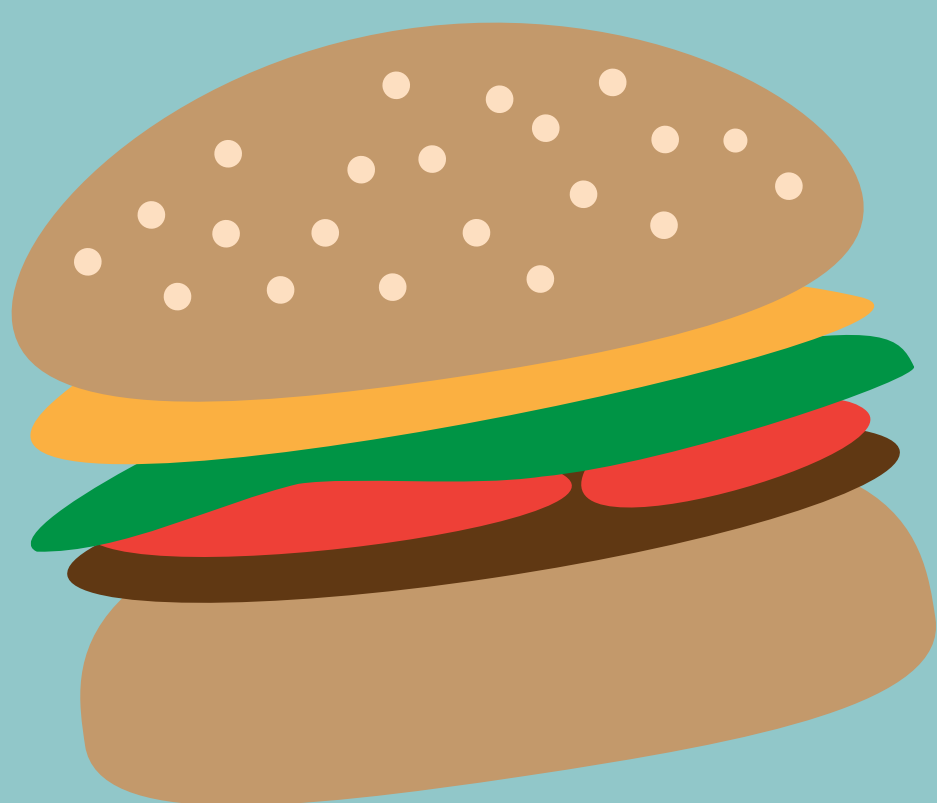
Build a home for the animal of your choice! You can use anything you want! Natural materials such as rocks, sticks, and leaves. Household items such as play doh, cardboard, blankets, or planting pots. Decorate your house any way you like! Think about what your animal needs to live and be happy (food, shelter, water, warmth).



We built a home for a toad! We used clay for the structure and decorated it with rocks and pine needles so it blends in with nature. That way the toad can hide from predators. We added a swimming pool so the toad would have water to soak in. We added a path and a mailbox just for fun!

Step 5

Send a picture of the house you built to a friend or family member. Explain what it is, how you built it, and why you built it that way. Discuss: where did you put your home and why? How does your home provide the animal with food, water, and shelter? How can we help animals where they live and why is it important to do so?

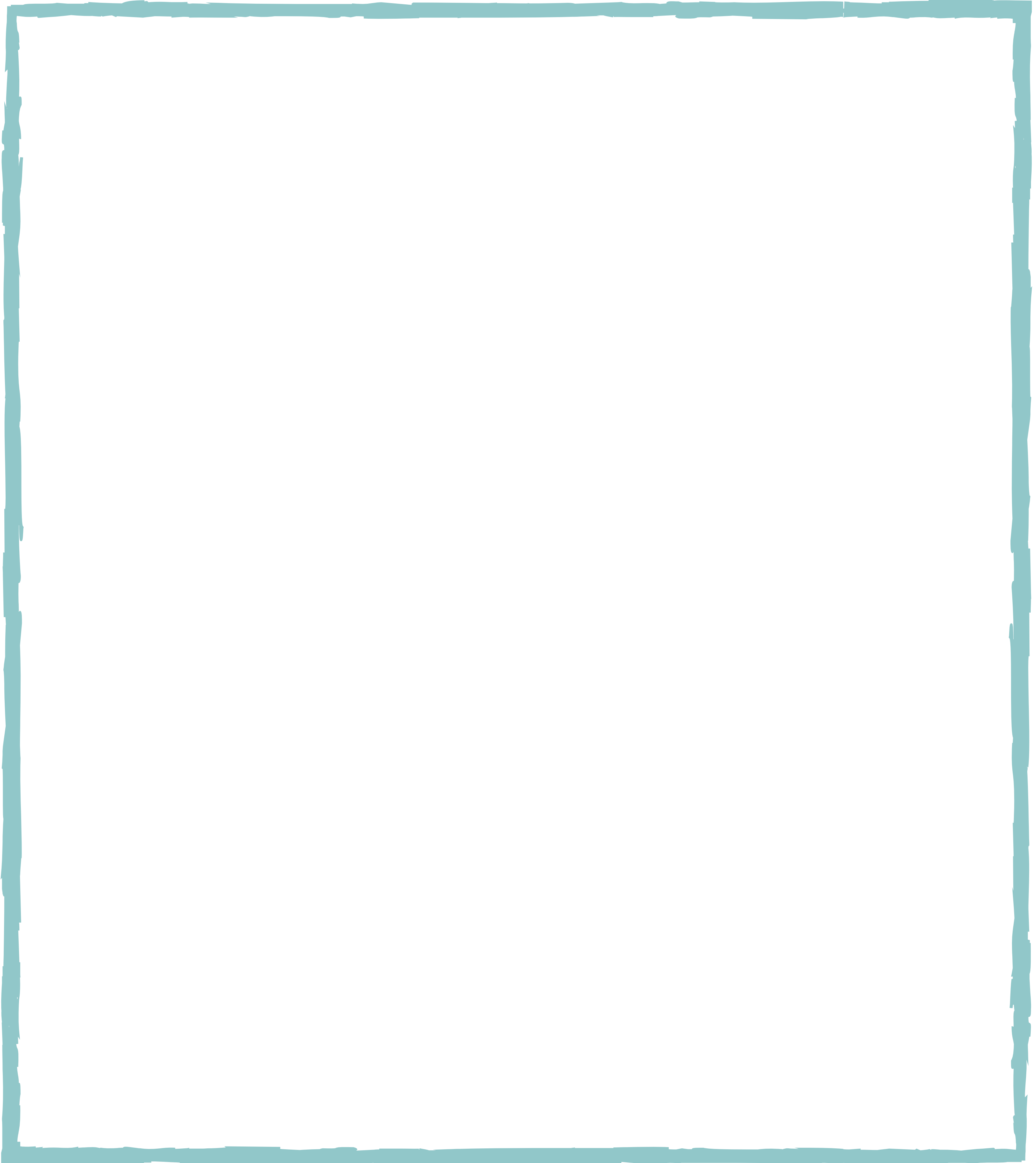


Step 6 (Optional)

Join us Friday, May 1st, 2020 from 10 -11 AM MST on Zoom to share your work and participate in a fun group discussion with the instructors at MOSS. A Zoom link will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Workbook

Step 1: Draw a picture of your home



Step 2: Record your observations

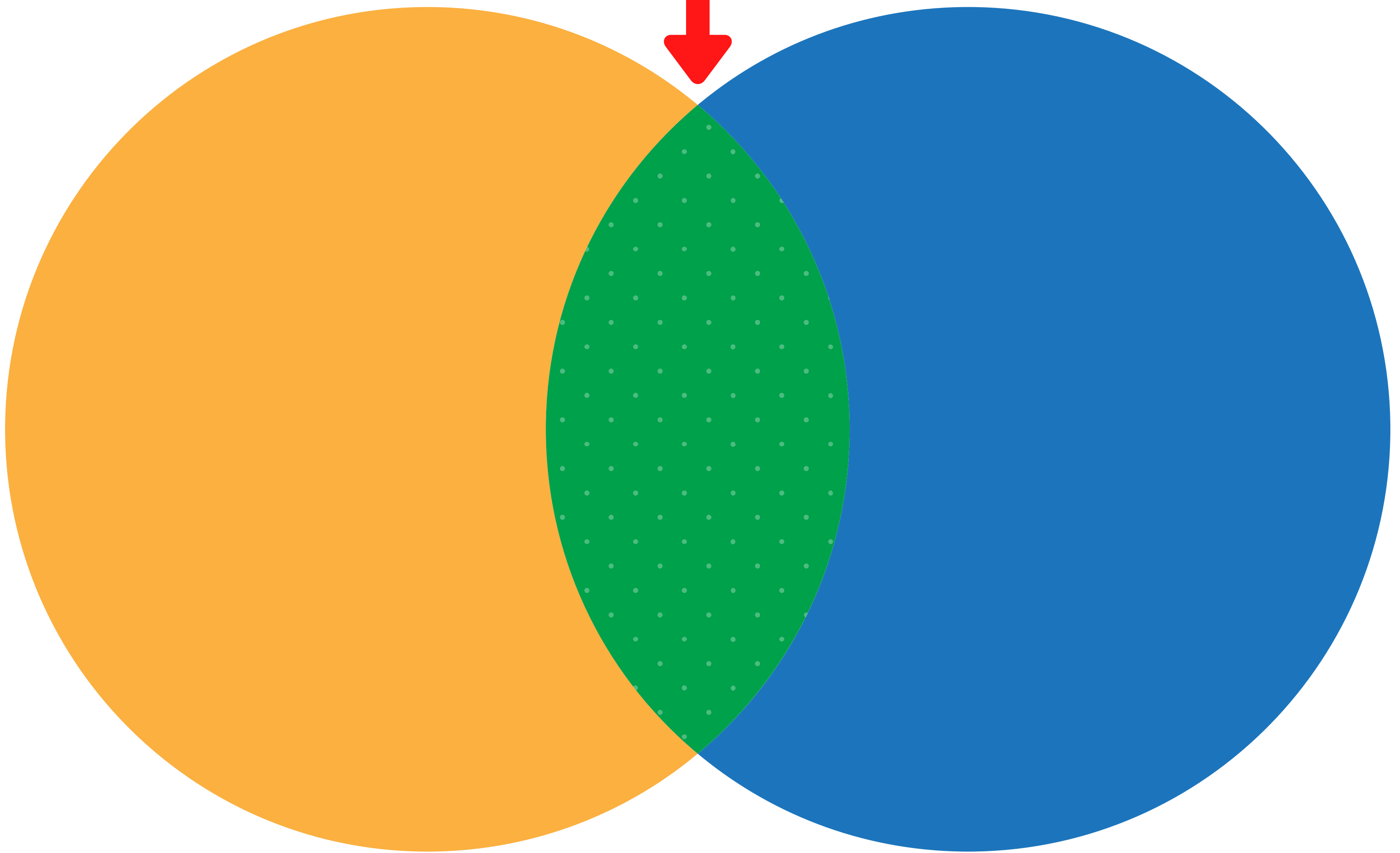
What animals did you see?

What animals did you hear?

Did you see any signs of animals (prints or poop)?

Step 3: Create a Venn Diagram

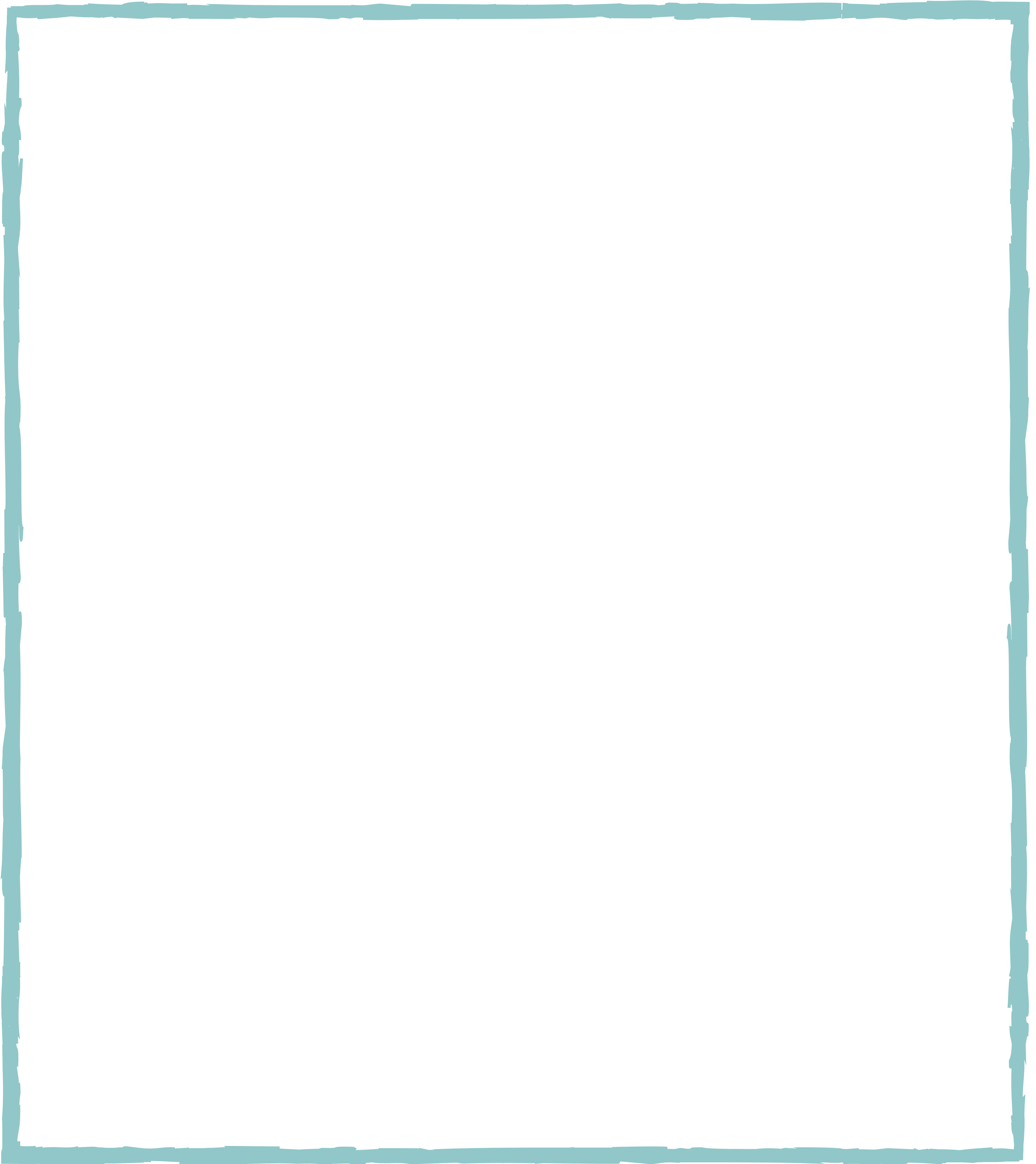
What we both need
to live



What I need to live

What my animal
needs to live

Step 4: Draw a picture of the home you will build for your animal, then go build it!



Think about how this home will meet your animal's needs

Step 5: Share your home!

1. Who did you build a house for?

2. What materials did you use and why?

3. Where did you put your house and why?

4. How did you provide your animal with what it needs to live?

5. How can we help animals where they live and why is it important to do so?
