

## Turtle Habitat Classroom Activity

The Classroom Activity introduces students to the context of a performance task, so they are not disadvantaged in demonstrating the skills the task intends to assess. Contextual elements include: an understanding of the setting or situation in which the task is placed, potentially unfamiliar concepts that are associated with the scenario, and key terms or vocabulary students will need to understand in order to meaningfully engage with and complete the performance task. The Classroom Activity is also intended to generate student interest in further exploration of the key idea(s). The Classroom Activity should be easy to implement with clear instructions.

Please read through the entire Classroom Activity before beginning the activity with students to ensure any classroom preparation can be completed in advance.

### Resources needed:

- Each student should have access to a piece of paper and writing tool<sup>1</sup>.
- Some method of displaying images<sup>2</sup>
- Whiteboard or some manner of recording student responses

### Resources Provided:

- Resources Documents
  - Figure 1. Chihuahua
  - Figure 2. Mastiff

### Learning Goal:

- The student will understand the context of the key ideas related to the topic
  - How the growth of a pet might impact food and living area
  - How pet owners design a habitat that resembles an animal's natural habitat
- The student will understand the following vocabulary:
  - Habitat – the place or type of place where an animal lives.

Definitions are provided here for the convenience of facilitators. Students are expected to understand these key terms as they arise in the context of the task, not to be able to recite the definitions.

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<sup>1</sup> Students who need an accommodation may use their preferred tool for writing.

<sup>2</sup> Instead of displaying Figures 1 and 2, the last page of this document can be used as a handout for students.

## Turtle Habitat Classroom Activity

[Purpose: The facilitator’s goal is to help students understand how the growth of a pet might affect the amount of food and the size of the living space a pet requires, and how pet owners attempt to create a habitat similar to the animal’s natural habitat.]

Facilitator says: “Today, we will get ready for the Turtle Habitat Performance Task. This task is about the responsibilities of owning a pet turtle.”

Facilitator says: “To get ready for this task, we are going to discuss how the growth of any pet can affect the amount of food and the size of the living space that is needed. For our discussion we will focus on growth of a pet dog.”

Facilitator says: “How many of you have a pet dog or know someone who has a pet dog? Who has or knows someone who has had their dog since it was a puppy?”

Facilitator says: “Who can describe the differences between a puppy and an adult dog?” [Allow time for student responses. If students do not mention a difference in size, then the facilitator can ask specifically to compare the sizes of a puppy and an adult dog.]

Facilitator says: “Does the type of dog impact the difference in size between a puppy and an adult dog?” [Allow time for student responses.]

[Facilitator should display Figures 1 and 2.]

Facilitator says: “These pictures represent two different types of dogs as a puppy and as an adult. A Chihuahua is a small dog and a Mastiff is a large dog. The Chihuahua puppy has a height of 4 inches and weighs 3 pounds. The adult Chihuahua has a height of 8 inches and weighs 7 pounds.”

Facilitator says: “The Mastiff puppy has a height of 7 inches and weighs 25 pounds. The adult Mastiff has a height of 30 inches and weighs 180 pounds.”

Facilitator says: “Who would like to describe how the size of each type of dog has changed between the puppy and the adult?” [Allow time for student responses. Facilitator can highlight that the difference between the Chihuahua puppy and adult is less than the difference between the Mastiff puppy and adult.]

Facilitator says: “How do you think the growth of a puppy will impact the amount of food the dog needs?” [Allow time for student responses. Facilitator can mention that generally an adult dog will need more food than a puppy. The difference in the amount of food will depend on the type of dog. The change in the amount of food for the Chihuahua will be less than that for a Mastiff.]

Facilitator says: “How do you think the growth of the puppy will impact the size of the space it needs?” [Allow time for student responses. Facilitator can mention that the larger a pet becomes the more room it needs to move about and to exercise. Again, the difference in the increase of space will depend on the breed.]

Facilitator says: “What general statement can we make about the growth of any animal and the impact the growth has on eating and the space that is needed?” [Allow time for student responses. Facilitator can mention that as pets grow they need more food and a larger living space.]

Facilitator says: “Do you think the growth of a pet turtle will have a similar impact on the amount of food and living space as the growth of a dog?” [Allow time for student responses. Facilitator can say like dogs, the growth of a pet turtle will impact the amount of food and the living space needed.]

There are different types of turtles. Some do not grow that much, similar to the Chihuahua, and others grow significantly, like the mastiff.]

Facilitator says: “We have discussed how the growth of a pet dog might impact the amount of food and the size of the living space that is needed.”

Facilitator says: “Who can share where pet dogs live? Describe where owners keep their dogs?” [Allow time for student responses. Responses can vary but might include in the house, outside, in a fenced area, and so on.]

Facilitator says: “Do you think the type of dog might influence where the owner keeps it?” [Allow time for student responses. Facilitator can highlight that ultimately the owner decides what living space is best for their situation but that dog owners should make sure the dogs’ needs are met.]

Facilitator says: “Do you think all pets need the same type of living space?” [Allow time for student responses.]

[Allow time for student responses after facilitator says each type of animal.]

Facilitator says: “Where do you think an owner would keep...

- a pet cat?
- fish?
- a pet bird?
- a pet turtle?

[Facilitator can mention the following if students do not know or are unfamiliar with the type of animal: Cat — varies, like a dog could be in the house or outside, Fish — normally in a fish tank/aquarium or a pond outside, Bird — normally in a bird cage but some owners allow the bird to roam freely in the house, and Turtle — normally in a fish tank/aquarium or a pond outside.]

Facilitator says: “Where an animal lives is called its habitat. Some pets, such as dogs or cats, do not need a special area but enough room to move about and get exercise. Other pets, like fish and turtles, need a special area such as an aquarium so the owner can create a living space that is similar to the animals’ natural habitat.”

Possible class discussion questions (*unscripted*):

- Can you think of another pet that may live in an aquarium?
- Do you think the size of the pet will influence the size of the aquarium needed to house the pet?

[No resolution is needed for these questions. Questions are to increase student interest and to promote discussion regarding the topic.]

Facilitator says: “Today we discussed how the growth of a pet might impact the amount of food and living space a pet needs, and how pet owners provide an appropriate living space or habitat for different types of pets. These ideas may help you when you complete your performance task.”

Facilitator says: “Does anyone have any questions?” [Allow for student questions.]

Facilitator says: “You are ready to complete the Turtle Habitat Performance Task.”

Resource Documents

[Note: For students who are visually impaired, describe the process orally.]

Figure 1. Chihuahua


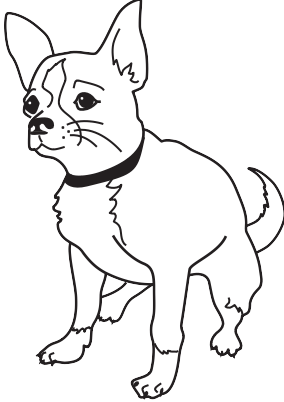
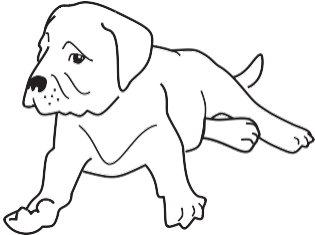
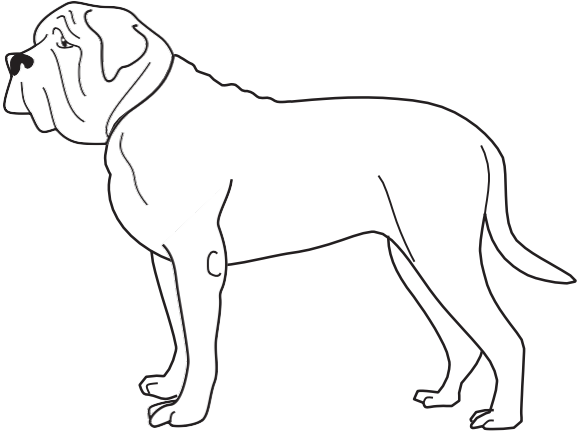
	
<p>Chihuahua Puppy Height: 4 inches Weight: 3 pounds</p>	<p>Adult Chihuahua Height: 8 inches Weight: 7 pounds</p>

Figure 2. Mastiff

	
<p>Mastiff Puppy Height: 7 inches Weight: 25 pounds</p>	<p>Adult Mastiff Height: 30 inches Weight: 180 pounds</p>