

# May I Take Your Order?

## Overview

Pests, like all animals, have specific needs for survival. In this activity, students create a restaurant and menu for pests. Fun and creative, this activity challenges students to use their knowledge of needs such as food, water, shelter, air, space, etc., to create the perfect dining experience for pests.

## Objectives

Students will:

- describe the things living things need to survive.
- read and learn the needs of several common household pests.
- apply their knowledge by creating a restaurant that meets the needs of one or several types of pests.

## Materials

needs cards (for each group), shoe boxes, thick paper (card stock or tag board), scissors, colored paper, glue, tape, markers, other art supplies (feathers, cotton, toothpicks, pipe cleaners)

## Subjects

science, art

## Duration

1 hour

## Doing the Activity

**Step 1: Discussion.** Ask the students what animals need to survive. Generate a list on the board or overhead. Review what a habitat is. Ask the students: *What is needed in a habitat?* Food, water, shelter, air, space, protection. *Do all living things live in the same habitat? Describe different habitats.*

**Step 2: The Task.** Split students up into groups (pairs or 3-4 people). Say: *Today you are restaurant owners starting a new business. Your job is to create a restaurant to serve (one or several types of) pests.*

Assign or decide how many different pests each student or group needs to address. Hand out need cards. Using the need cards ask students to write down ways they can meet all of the needs of their different customers. The more pests, the more

complicated the restaurant will need to be.

**Step 3: Craft Activity.** Ask the students to create a restaurant with the shoe box and art supplies. Remind them that they need to accommodate the needs of all of the customers.

**Step 4: Write Menus.** Have students write menus. Before they begin, ask the students if the menus would be the same or would they need to have different menus for different customers.

**Closure:** Ask: *What was the hardest part about making a restaurant for pests? How can so many different pests live in a house?* There are many small habitats within a house. Many different pests can live in the same place if they are not taking away each other's food, water or space.

### Needs Card

**Name:** House Mouse

**Food:** grains, nuts, cereal, fruits or vegetables

**Water:** alone or in the food

**Shelter:** warm and next to walls

**Light:** active in the dark

**Other:** nibbles (small portions)

### Needs Card

**Name:** Mosquito

**Food:** females drink blood from living animal, males drink nectar and plant juices

**Water:** need still water for larvae

**Light:** feed at dusk

**Shelter:** near water and food

### Needs Card

**Name:** Dandelion

**Food:** makes its own, needs nutrients from the soil

**Water:** through roots from soil

**Shelter:** anchored in soil outside

**Light:** sunlight

**Other:** needs to be in soil

### Needs Card

**Name:** German Cockroach

**Food:** any food, soap, pet food, wallpaper paste

**Water:** moisture, high humidity

**Shelter:** enclosed areas

**Light:** dark

**Other:** prefer pressure on body

### Needs Card

**Name:** Fruit Fly

**Food:** very ripe or rotting fruit, spilled food or drink that is not cleaned up

**Water:** from the fruit, damp areas

**Shelter:** near food

**Other:** reproduce very quickly

### Needs Card

**Name:** Cat Flea

**Food:** blood of cats (also people, dogs or other mammals)

**Water:** moisture, high humidity

**Shelter:** carpet, hair, bedding, furniture, damp soil