



Middle School: Outdoor Habitats Guide

Answers can be found by reading exhibit signs or by observing the animals in their habitats.

Raccoon Exhibit

Sketch what the tracks look like.

Answers will vary.



Wild Care Center

What adaptations might these animals have to make it through the colder months?

Hibernation or torpor, slowing down and eating a lot of food before winter time to make it through.

Red Wolf Exhibit

What would happen to the deer population if the red wolf went extinct?

- a. The deer population would stay the same.
- b. The deer population would decrease.
- c. The deer population would increase.

Vulture Exhibit

What role do vultures play in the ecosystem?

Vultures are scavengers. They help keep ecosystems clean of dead animals.

Beaver Exhibit

What resources from their habitat do beavers use? How do beavers use those resources?

Beavers use wood in their habitat. They use them to help build dams for shelter.



Middle School: Indoor Exhibit Guide

Answers can be found by reading exhibit signs or by observing the animals in their habitats

Virginia's Piedmont and Mountains Gallery

Why is the James River important to Virginia?

Answers will vary. Examples include: The James River watershed contains 25% of Virginia's total area and is home to 1/3 of the state's population. The James river is Virginia's longest river. The James River has class IV and V rapids. The James river has historical importance to Virginia - the founding of Jamestown, George Washington's canal system, Thomas Jefferson's hideout from the Redcoats, the nation's first mines and factories, Patrick Henry's liberty speech, Civil War battles and POW camps, the battle of the ironclads, and shipyards that helped win two world wars.

Virginia's Coastal Plain Gallery (Upper Level)

Why is the Chesapeake Bay important?

Answers will vary. Examples include: The Chesapeake Bay supports more than 3,600 species of plants, fish, and other animals. The Chesapeake Bay provides winter shelter for nearly a million waterfowl. More than 200 million pounds of seafood are harvested annually from the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay has 4,000 miles of coastline. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States.

Look at the animals in the gallery, list three animals and one adaptation each that helps them survive in their habitat.

Animal	Adaptation
<u>Answers will vary</u>	

Appalachian Mountain Cove Habitarium (Upper and Lower Level)

What changes do you notice as you walk down the exhibit?

Answers will vary. Examples include: The water is moving faster at one end. The waterfall makes more noise than the stream. The fish in the shallowest part of the stream are smaller, as the stream gets deeper the fish get bigger.

Cypress Swamp Gallery Habitarium (Upper Level)

What are two reasons the wetlands are important to the health of Virginia's ecosystem?

Answers will vary. Examples include: Wetlands act like sponges to soak up excess rainwater and reduce flooding. Wetlands filter sediments to improve the quality of local waterways. Wetlands provide nesting habitats for birds. Wetlands act as nurseries for amphibians and insects. Wetlands are a resting spot for migrating birds. Wetlands home for lots of animals.

Virginia's Underground Gallery (Lower Level)

List two ways humans use rocks and minerals in their everyday life.

Answers will vary. Examples include: Humans use rocks and minerals in jewelry (amazonite, quartz), to insulate electric devices (mica) to make glass (quartz), to make electronic components (quartz), in lightweight metals and as rocket fuel additives (beryl).