

## **Natural Habitats Activity: Grade 4 – Where Did the Animals Go?**

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### **Overview**

Students will use the map to determine where specific natural features are located in New York and use that information and additional research to chart the habitat of specified animals on a blank map.

### **Essential Questions:**

- Where in New York are natural features like rivers, lakes, forests, and mountains?
- What types of animals live in each habitat? More specifically, where are the animals indigenous to New York on the Empire State Carousel found?

### **New York State Standards:**

- Mathematics, Science and Technology
  - Standard 4: Science
  - Standard 6: Interconnectedness: common themes
- The Arts
  - Standard 2: Knowing and using Arts materials and resources
- Social Studies
  - Standard 3: Geography

### **Materials:**

- Overhead projector
- Transparencies of the included maps
- Photocopies of the map
- Overhead markers (preferably 3 different colors)
- Transparency – Animal Labels, cut in individual names

## Procedure

- The teacher begins by setting the scene with the following story:

*One warm spring day, at the stroke of midnight, a girl named Katie snuck back to The Farmers' Museum. She decided that she wanted to visit her favorite place in Cooperstown, The Empire State Carousel, one last time before her family's vacation ended. As she crept closer to the carousel she noticed something odd, all the animals were gone! Katie searched the museum until dawn, frantic to find the animals. Tired and discouraged, Katie sat down under a big oak tree to take a short break. She woke up to the music of the band organ playing and the carousel spinning merrily in the sunlight, all the animals were shining and in place! Katie thought she must have dreamed the whole, strange night, but as she rode the carousel one last time, she told Grandpa Goat, whom she was riding, her story. "No," he said, "it wasn't a dream. Once in a blue moon, we go back to our homes all over New York to have dinner with our families and sleep in our homes before we come back to the carousel." Katie asked, "But where are your homes?" Help Katie find each the homes of some of the animals from the Empire State Carousel.*

- The teacher will begin discussion about natural features. Use *Locating the Site Map 3* and the accompanying reading and questions.
- The teacher will divide the students into three groups. Each group will be assigned to research one of the following: New York's forest habitats, water habitats, or high lands.
- The teacher will distribute copies of the map to each group and instruct them to fill out the map. Students will be asked to draw the major rivers, mountains, or forests on their map based on the group's assignment. Highlands should be drawn marked with inverted 'V's. Students marking forests should be asked to shade the forested areas, and students marking rivers and lakes should draw these on. Student should be told they will present their findings to the class once they have finished.

- The teacher will instruct students that as they finish their group's map, they should begin researching, using textbooks, encyclopedias, maps, the internet and other resources available, what types of animals live in their assign habitat.
- After all the groups have finished drawing the natural features on their individual maps, the class will regroup.
- The teacher will put up an overhead of the blank map up.
  - First, the Forest Habitat group will come up and shade New York's forested areas. Remind them to make a Key to indicate what the shading means.
  - Next, the Highlands group should mark highland areas using inverted 'V's. Again, add to the map's Key.
  - Finally, the Water Habitat adds and labels their bodies of water.
- The teacher will call students up to the overhead to place individual Carousel Animal Names in appropriate places on the map leading to a concluding discussion relating to the opening story.

*Now let's find out what Grandpa Goat told Katie about where the Empire State Carousel animals go once in a blue moon...*

### **Supplemental Information**

- Animals found on the Empire State Carousel include:

Benny the Brook Trout	Monty Moose
Bucky Beaver	Sal the Erie Canal Mule
Charlotte Chicken	Prunella Pig
Clarissa Cow	Reginald Raccoon
Daphne the Long Island Duck	Sam Bear
Grandpa Goat	Shirley Squirrel
Louie Loon	Willie Wildcat

### **Evaluation**

- The teacher says, "One morning the animals decided to switch places to ride with their natural neighbors on the carousel. Draw a circle to represent the carousel's floor. Add the animals' names to make a floor plan to show you understand which animals are found in each of New York's habitats. Add a caption in complete sentences explaining your placement.

