

## What Makes a Habitat?

A **habitat** is the natural home of a living thing. There are four main components of a habitat: food, water, shelter, and space. **Can you circle the food, water, and shelter in this picture?**



Why might a wolf need a lot of space? In the wild, it can be really hard to find food, water, and shelter, so a wolf might need to travel quite a distance every day. This is why wolves establish a territory- so that they can secure enough resources to survive. But defending their territory from other wolf packs can be dangerous, so wolves often choose the smallest territory to defend that still allows them to have enough food, water, and shelter. This means the size of their territory can range from region to region and pack to pack based on how many resources are in the area. For example, wolf territories in the north tend to be larger, because there is less prey and they have to travel farther to find it.

**Action item:** How can we make our own neighborhoods a better habitat for animals? List one way to make your school yard a better habitat.

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