



Family YMCA of Black Hawk County

Y Kids Quest at Home

Grades 1st - 5th

Weekly Theme: Where The Wild Things Are

Age Range: Grades 1st - 5th

Overview: Welcome to Where The Wild Things Are! Come explore with us as we learn about animals and the habitats in which they live.

We have four main goals in preparing our **Y Kids Quest At Home** programming:

- 1) To utilize our youth development experts to carefully select and tie together themed activities that kids will love. We know this is a challenging time for parents/guardians. There are more resources than ever available to do at home with your kids, but finding time to plan and organize it takes a lot of time. We're here to help with that.
- 2) To provide activities that are easy to access, easy to do, and require few supplies (or can utilize whatever materials families have available).
- 3) To offer a range of enrichment activities to help kids learn, have fun, and stay engaged, including arts & crafts, STEM, social-emotional learning, online resources, and more!
- 4) To offer ideas for creating quality family time experiences together and provide the resources to make those easy to do.

Kids Challenge

Each week we'll have one Kids Challenge that ties into one of our activities for the week. We encourage your child(ren) to complete the challenge and post the results of the challenge to our weekly Y Kids Quest Facebook post (between Thursday at 5pm to Saturday at 12pm each week). Participating will also enter you to win in a variety of ways:

- Earn a Kids Challenge Badge for this week.
- Earn one entry into our Y Kids Quest raffle to win Y gear and Y Bucks (to use for membership and/or programs).

If your child(ren) completes each challenge and posts every week and get entered to win a Year-Long Youth Membership (a \$190 value, and even more as it provides a discount for programs all year).



Family Activity

We also have a weekly Family Activity idea tied to our theme. Do the activity as a family and post to our weekly Y Kids Quest Facebook post (between Thursday at 5pm to Saturday at 12pm each week). Participating means your family will:

- Earn a Family Activity Badge for this week.
- Earn one entry into our Y Kids Quest raffle to win Y gear and Y Bucks (to use for membership and/or programs).

If your family completes each activity and posts every week and get entered to win a Year-Long Family Membership (a \$690 value, and even more as it provides a discount for programs all year).



See details about this week's Kids Challenge and Family Activity at the end of this document.

Day 1

Theme Kick-Off: Where the Wild Things Are (literacy; online video)

- Watch a video rendition of the beloved children's book, Where the Wild Things Are, [found here](#).
- Set up a free account at getepic.com to access this video, as well as 40,000 other children's books and videos. See additional recommended books for this week's theme below.

Live Cams: San Diego Zoo (virtual field trip)

[Visit here](#) to explore 12 different areas of the San Diego Zoo from your very own home.

- Write out your observations and explore as many animals as you would like!
- What do you see?
- What are your favorite animals?
- What is a habitat?
- What different habitats are you seeing?
- What is one animal you wish you could pet or visit?



DAY 2

Water Safari Game (online learning game)

- Visit [this PBS Kids page](#) to go on a water safari and complete various challenges!
- Identify animals that spend time on land and water.
- Check out trees that are adapted to live in saltwater.
- Find different types of prey that live underwater.
- If you could be any underwater sea animal, what would you choose to be?



Wild Aware (online learning game)

- Can you match baby animals to their mothers? Take [this quiz](#) to find out!
- Find a picture of your favorite baby animal and practice your skills by drawing your own picture of that baby animal.



DAY 3

Zoo Letters (literacy development)

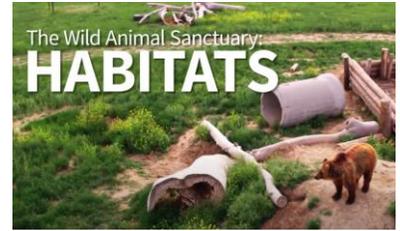
- Write a letter to the animals at our very own Sunrise Zoo, located at Cattle Congress in Waterloo. They have a variety of farm animals, including cows, pigs, goats, chickens, donkeys, llamas, and more. Write a letter to a specific animal letting them know what you know about them, or write a general letter to the whole gang with your thoughts and greetings for them.

Mail to: The Sunrise Zoo
P.O. Box 1102
Waterloo, IA, 50704

DAY 4 - This week's Kids Challenge!

All About Animal Habitats (STEM)

- Watch [this video](#) to learn about how the staff at Mutual of Omaha create the habitats for the animals in their care.
- Create your own habitat! Use any materials at home (paper, cardboard, toys, etc.) to set up a special habitat for your animal of choice. Search the internet for more information about your animal's habitat so you can build it to suit them.
- What fun things would you put into your habitat to make your animals happy?
- Take a picture of the habitat you built and share about it in our Y Kids Quest Facebook post (see below).



DAY 5 – This week's Family Activity!

Backyard Safari (outdoors; exploration)

Go explore in your own backyard to see what kinds of animals and other signs of nature live there. If you can, take a camera to capture your great outdoors at home.

- What animals do you see roaming around your yard?
- Where do the animals live around you? What is their habitat like?
- What do you think they like about living in your yard?
- Is there anything else that you notice about the animals that live around you?
- Take a picture of one of the animals in your yard. Pick one and do your own research to learn a fun fact about that animal and share in our Y Kids Quest Facebook post (see more details below).
OR, record all the animals you see, and share in our Y Kids Quest Facebook post (details below).

WEEKLY THEME BOOKS (available through Epic)

Information: Parents/guardians may go to [this website](#) and access over 40,000 titles for free during a 30-day free trial available due to the COVID-19 pandemic!

Book Title (linked to Epic)	Approximate Ages
Zoom to the Zoo (Read To Me version)	Early Elementary
Why Do Pigs Roll Around in the Mud (Read To Me version)	Early Elementary
Mother and Baby Zoo Animals (Read To Me version)	Early Elementary
Fibonacci Zoo	Early Elementary
How Did They Build That? Zoo	Middle Elementary
Z is for Zookeeper	Middle Elementary
Silly Zoo Animal: Jokes & Riddles	Middle Elementary
The Great Monkey Rescue (Read To Me version)	Upper Elementary
This Place is a Zoo	Upper Elementary
Jessie's Island	Upper Elementary
Been There Done That: Reading Animal Signs	Upper Elementary

KIDS CHALLENGE - Participate to Win!

Get creative and find materials around your house to make your own animal habitat for an animal of your choice as part of our **All About Animal Habitats** activity (Day 4)! Learn about that animal and how it likes to live to create the perfect home for them.



Please post a picture of your animal habitat creation with a description to our weekly Y Kids Quest Facebook post (available starting Thursdays at 5pm – post anytime from then through Saturday at 12pm). Participate by posting, earn our themed badges, and be entered to win some cool Y prizes. We look forward to seeing your entries!

FAMILY ACTIVITY - Participate to Win!

The challenge for this week is to show us what animals live around you! Try to capture a picture of an animal outside your house during your **Backyard Safari** (Day 5), or even take a picture of your own pets. If you can't take a picture, draw one of your favorite animal! Look up a fun fact about that kind of animal and share the fact when you post your picture. Alternately, you can record a list of the animals you see during your Backyard Safari. After you're done with your safari, pick one from your list, and look up a fun fact to share.



Please make sure to post a picture or share about what animal(s) you found during your Backyard Safari, including a fun animal fact, to our weekly Y Kids Quest Facebook post (available starting Thursdays at 5pm – post anytime from then through Saturday at 12pm). Participate by posting, earn our themed badges, and be entered to win some cool Y prizes. We look forward to seeing your entries!