Lesson/Activity Title:

ANIMAL HABITATS

Time: 10-15 minutes for focus; 10-15 minutes for teach model; 10-15 minutes for guided practice; 60-90 minutes for independent practice; 15-20 minutes for closure

Instructional Goals:

- The students will use the **PebbleGo** Animals online database to research animal habitats around the world
- The students will take research notes as they read articles from the **PebbleGo** Animals online database
- The students will create a diorama showcasing an animal's habitat
- The students will write an original story based on a selected animal habitat
- The students will compare and contrast animal habitats and ecosystems

Integrated Content Standards

- AASL Standards Framework for Learners (http://standards.aasl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ AASL-Learner-Framework-Spread.pdf)
- Common Core English Language Arts/Literacy Standards (www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/)
- National Educational Technology Standards for Students (https://www.iste.org/standards/for- students)
- NCTE/IRA Standards for English Language Arts (www.ncte.org/standards/ncte-ira)
- Next Generation Science Standards (www.nextgenscience.org/)

Materials/Resources:

- **PebbleGo** Animals online database
- Animal Habitat Research Handout
- Shoebox or cardboard box
- Art supplies such as markers, construction paper, glue, and scissors
- Diorama Story Handout

Procedures/Lesson Activities:
Focus

1. Bring the class together and show them various pictures of animal habitats, such as the desert, the ocean, a wetland, or a rainforest.

2. Ask students to describe the picture and record their responses. Ask questions like:
    - What do you see in the picture? (Grass, water, trees, etc.)
    - What animals do you think could live here and why?

3. Write the word "habitat" for students to see. Explain to students they just described one of many habitats, or places, where animals live.

Teach/Model

4. Demonstrate accessing the **PebbleGo** Animals online database. Click on the Animal Habitat articles and then on the first category, desert animals.

5. Draw students' attention to the readaloud option within the article and click on the icon to introduce this feature.

6. Show students how to navigate the article by clicking on various tabs such as "Bodies" or "Camels."

7. Pass out the "Animal Habitat Research Handout" and read the instructions together with your students.

8. Explain to students they will now have the chance to research an animal habitat, create their own diorama showcasing what they have learned, and write a story about their habitat.

Guided Practice

9. Walk students through choosing an animal habitat and complete a few portions of the "Animal Habitat Research Handout" until students grasp the concept. For example, after writing "desert" to the answer of the first question, navigate the **PebbleGo** article and choose any fact to transcribe to the handout. You might write that the desert is hot and dry.

10. Point out to students the importance of giving credit to their research source. Click on the "cite" button at the bottom of the article and review how to fill out the bibliography portion of the "Animal Habitat Research Handout."

11. Show students an example of a diorama. Point out how you used the information from the handout to help you design the animal's habitat. For example, you might include a camel in the desert or a large sun shining to represent the dry heat found there.

12. Distribute the "Diorama Story Handout" and review the directions with students. Invite students to help you write a short story about the desert habitat. Remind students they can write a story about something that happened in the animal's habitat or write from an animal's perspective. Encourage students to be creative!

Independent Practice

13. Allow students 30-45 minutes to access the Animal Habitat articles on the **PebbleGo Animals** online database and to complete the "Animal Habitat Research Handout."

14. Provide students with a shoebox or cardboard box and a variety of art supplies to complete their diorama. Remind students to use their research to build their habitat.

15. Ask students to write a story using the "Diorama Story Handout." Have them cut their story out and glue it on the backside of their diorama.

Closure

16. Invite students to share their dioramas and stories with the class. If you are pressed for time, divide students into small groups and ask them to share in smaller groups rather than in front of the entire class.

Extend/Enrich

- Gather the class together to compare and contrast animal habitats. Select two animal habitats at a time and draw and fill out a Venn Diagram based on the students' research.

Name: _____

Animal Habitat Research Handout

Use the **PebbleGo** Animals database and choose an animal habitat to research.
Fill out the handout using the information you learn from the article.

My animal habitat is: _____

Three facts about my habitat:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Four animals I might find in my habitat:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Describe what you found most interesting about your habitat.

_____

_____

_____

Bibliography: _____

Name: _____

Diorama Story Handout

Use the space below to write a story about the animal habitat you chose to research.
Cut out the story on the dotted lines and glue it to the backside of your diorama.

Title: _____

Name: _____