



Salamander Saturday: Animal Tails

Celebrate Salamander Saturday with a special storybook reading. Afterwards, create a salamander habitat themed sensory bin!

The Salamander Room

By Anne Mazer

Age: PreK - 2nd grade

Gather your Gear

- The Salamander Room book or log on to watch the storybook reading
- Small to medium-sized container to act as your sensory bin
- Optional: Spray bottle filled with water
- Optional: Toy insects, toy trees, etc.

Get Ready *You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before the activity.*

- What kind of animal is a salamander?

Salamanders are members of the amphibian family, which includes frogs, toads, and newts. Unlike humans, salamanders and other amphibians breathe through their skin. There are over 650 different species of salamanders. When they are larvae (or just hatched) they are strictly aquatic. As adults, they will spend time both on land and in the water.

- What is a habitat?

A **habitat** is the natural place where an animal typically lives and grows. Everyone and everything needs a good habitat to survive. Not all species can survive in the same habitat. Different plants and animals need different things in their environment to survive.

- What are some things that you need in your habitat to survive?

A good habitat will have at least four components: water, food, shelter, and a place to raise young.

Read

Read the book or watch the recorded reading on the webpage.

Recap *Briefly discuss what was important or what we learned. Below are some questions to guide you.*

- How did the boy change his room to make it a good salamander habitat? What things did he say he would add to his room?
- What did the boy's room look like at the end of the book?
- Look at the three habitat images below and discuss which one a salamander would most likely live in?

Relate *Create connections to the idea through activities.*

Create a Salamander Habitat Sensory Bin

1. Discuss what items are needed to make a good salamander habitat. Take a walk outside to find needed materials.
 - a. Possible items include rocks, leaves, grass, moss, branches, sand, dirt, mud

- b. Optional: Household items and toys can also be used to add to the sensory bin. Possible items include toy insects, toy trees, or green or brown felt.
2. Place items in the sensory bin container to create the habitat.
3. Optional: Use the spray bottle to mist the habitat to make a happy salamander home.

It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If your family members are on social media, post your photos to show what you have learned, and use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more....

- Go to Zoo Atlanta's website to learn about the salamanders at the Zoo: <https://zooatlanta.org/animal/seal-salamander/>
- Check out Tony the tiger salamander and get a quick refresher on amphibians: <https://youtu.be/x8Gtv7oXMdc?list=PLt1LWXndyyt6NCcrbe1fXCzRYAXOW2LqU>

Habitat Photos:

Frozen Environment



Photo by [Elisa Clairet](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Damp/Wet Environment



Photo by [Karim Sakhigareev](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Dry/Desert Environment



Photo by [Ganapathy Kumar](#) on [Unsplash](#)