Animal Homes
People live in houses and apartments. Where do animals live?
Foxes live in holes in the ground that help them hide and keep warm.
Bats live in caves. They sleep in the day hanging upside down.
Bees live in hives. 50,000 bees can live in one hive.
Birds live in nests so they can take care of their babies.
Spiders live on webs. The webs are sticky and help spiders catch insects for food.
Starfish live on coral reefs. Fish, crabs, shrimp and other animals live on the reefs too.
Animals live in lots of different places.

Some animals live in houses too!
The Mustard Seed Books project uses an open-source, Wikipedia-type strategy, leveraging public expertise to create and refine a set of high-quality books that support early reading development. All of the books and pictures are covered by the Creative Commons License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/) and are free to print, distribute, and modify for personal or educational use. The books are available at www.mustardseedbooks.org. New titles appear on a regular basis. If you have any ideas for books or would like to leave us any feedback, contact rick@mustardseedbooks.org.

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Our aim with this series of books is to weave together two significant goals in the design of early reading materials—that the books are both instructional and engaging. Books designed to develop reading skills often end up feeling like work to read, while books designed to be interesting are often too difficult for beginning readers.

These books for beginning readers support phonics-based classroom instruction by including a high concentration of phonetically regular words, as well as the most commonly used sight words. However, the books are written using pictures and stories that make sense and promote both language and conceptual development. The books encourage questions, conversations and thoughtful engagement, aiming towards the new common core standards. Our intent is to produce books that kids want to read, think about, talk about and read again.
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