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# EVEN AN OCTOPUS NEEDS A HOME

IRENE KELLY

GRADES  
PRE-3

## About the Book

Nature lovers will be fascinated by how animals solve the problem of locating safe places in which to live and raise families.

## SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

### Literature/Language Arts

**Vocabulary**—Before reading or listening to the book, students can discuss the meanings of the following words: *abdomen*, *calcium*, *chambers*, *fungus*, *industrious*, *nursery*, *pantry*, *sculpt*, and *secrete*, which appear in the text. They can also create a class Glossary of these words.

**Writing**—The book describes eight different types of animal homes—tree houses, towers, lodges, caves, burrows, floating homes, mobile homes, and bubbles—and the animals that live in them. Students can write a short paragraph comparing their own homes with any of these animal homes. Which animal homes are most like their own? How are they alike? How are they different? If students were to invite a particular animal over for a “sleepover,” how would they have to modify their own homes to meet that animal’s needs? Where would the animal sleep?

### Geography

**Using Maps**—The Great Barrier Reef in Australia and Bracken Cave in Texas are both mentioned in the book. Students can locate these places on a globe or in a world atlas. They can also access Google images (See “Online Resources” below) and enter these terms too find excellent full-color photographs of these natural phenomena and their inhabitants.

### Art

**Illustrations**—After finding out about the different types of animals mentioned in the book, students can create their own illustrations of the animals in their respective homes using a variety of media. Their illustrations can also be used to compare and contrast the characteristics of the various homes or for a classroom bulletin board display grouped by type of home.

### Research

Students can do research on the different types of animal homes using books, encyclopedias, or online resources, and they can find additional information about the animals that live in each type of home. They can search for facts about the animal’s appearance, habitat, food, and special behaviors, and how their particular home helps them. They can work individually or in small groups, each group concentrating on a particular type of animal home. Their findings can be shared orally with another class or combined in a class book.

*Classroom activities prepared by Sandy Schuckett,  
school library consultant.*

## Online Resources

[www.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi](http://www.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi)

Students can enter the names of any of the types of homes mentioned in the book or the animals that live in them. These photos can be compared with the book's illustrations or used as models for students' own drawings.

<http://42explore.com/animhom.htm>

Provides a wealth of additional ideas, links, and activities for teaching students about animal homes.

## About the Author and Illustrator

**Irene Kelly** is a children's book illustrator and author who is best known for her superb nature books for children. Her Holiday House titles include *Even an Ostrich Needs a Nest: Where Birds Begin*, a companion to *Even an Octopus Needs a Home*; *It's a Butterfly's Life*; and *It's a Hummingbird's Life*. She lives with her family in New Jersey. Visit her online at [www.irenekellybooks.com](http://www.irenekellybooks.com).



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