

HABITATS

A habitat is a home environment for plants and animals or other organisms.

Animals need shelter, food, water, light and oxygen to survive and a mate for reproduction.

Plants need light, water, carbon dioxide from the air and minerals from the soil.



In the lush green rainforest of Guatemala lives an absolute treasure chest of species – Ocelot, Puma, Black Howler Monkey and the fantastically named Vampire Bat.



Kenyan Grasslands Appeal helped to save the highly biodiverse Kinangop grasslands in central Kenya. It protected lots of beautiful birds, and incredible amphibians and reptiles.



How do animals adapt to changes in temperature?

Birds migrate to warmer climates, some stay at sea for months and months! Small mammals create food stores underground so when colder weather starts they can survive. Bears eat plenty of food in the warm months when food is easy to find.

Kites Hill is the only UK site that World Land Trust looks after. It's a peaceful home to some familiar species such as Badger, Marsh Tit, Wood Mouse, Starling Kestrel and bats. What makes these animals suited to a woodland?



The world's oceans cover around 70% of the earth's surface. It can be warm in the tropics and below freezing! Tiny plankton to the massive Blue Whale lives in the ocean. As well as dolphins, turtles, sharks and large fish. What is your favourite?



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Identify that living things live in habitats they are suited to and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.

- Compare animals in familiar habitats with animals found in less familiar habitats, for example, on the seashore, in woodland, in the ocean, in the rainforest.
- Using the acronym MRS NERC, discuss the needs to plants and animals.
- Split class into different habitat types and collect names of species who live in the area
- Create a tropical bird mobile, and use a variety of materials, including manmade, natural and recycled items. Trial different methods or designs so it is balanced and effective.
- Create an underwater scene in a shoe box (or similar) including bird, mammal and vegetation species.
- Collect seed examples and discuss how these spread, for example by the wind or other animals.
- Create a Bee-friendly planted area or flowerpot home for bugs and bird, and investigate the different flower types and visitors.
- Create a woodland scene with information signs, and or use the signs in the school grounds.
- "What is your favourite marine species?" Create a class collage or book.
- Create mini flip charts on a species, include a photo, information on diet, details of appearance and interesting facts)
- Take a walk outside and notice all the signs of wildlife (prints, nests, listen, look, smell, touch). Task the class with recording their findings. Suggest what might have caused it. Create a diary or a nature table to discuss what has been found. This can be done individual or class basis
- Write a postcard/story to someone from his or her favourite habitat titled "Young Explorer visits ____".

Grow seedlings to show what is vital for plants to survive. Consider planting the trees in schools grounds, sell them for a fundraising event or raise funds to plant trees in World Land Trust project sites. Building on numeracy skills, include costings, profit forecast and create graphs.

Introduce the following terms, and find pictures to illustrate each one:

Biome is an area on Earth characterised by a common climate, geography and species.

Ecosystem is a community of all living organisms within an area, their interactions with each other and with the environment. Some of the most biodiverse ecosystems include coral reefs and tropical rainforests.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth; it includes the diversity of ecosystems, and the number and variety of species.

Biosphere reserve is an area which seeks to balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable development for local people.

Archipelago is a group or chain of islands.

Biodiversity Hotspot is an area that contains a really high number of different species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Conservation is the preservation of threatened wildlife habitats and WLT does this by funding the purchase of vulnerable land and working with local project partners to protect it as private nature reserves.