

HABITATS

A habitat is a place where an animal can find all the things it needs to live. Animals can change the way they live or even how they look to survive in the habitat they live in. Here are just a few of the amazing habitats found on Earth.

Toucan



▲ Forest

More animals live in forests than in any other habitat. There are two main kinds of forest: hot, humid **rainforests** near the Equator and cold, **coniferous forests** near the Arctic.

A COLD, SNOWY FOREST IS MY IDEA OF A PERFECT HOME!

Reindeer



Barn owl



▲ Woodland

Woodland areas have **four seasons**: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Trees grow new leaves in spring and lose them in autumn. Woodlands are also called temperate forests.

Zebra



▲ Grassland

These places have enough rainfall for **grasses to grow**, but not enough for trees. Grasslands can be hot, like the African savanna, or cool, like the North American prairies.

Camel



▲ Desert

Deserts are places that get less than 25 cm (10 in) of rain a year. Most deserts are **very hot**, but the icy continent of Antarctica counts as a desert, too!

Clownfish



▲ Water

Watery habitats include freshwater **rivers and lakes**, as well as salty **seas and oceans**. All kinds of fish, birds, mammals and insects make their homes in or near water.

Alligator



▲ Wetland

Wetlands are soggy, **swampy areas** of land. They are a rich, food-filled environment for many water-loving plants and animals.

Kangaroo



▲ Scrubland

Scrublands have **long, dry summers** and mild, wetter winters. The few plants that grow here are so tough that they can even withstand summer wildfires!

Polar bear



▲ Snow and ice

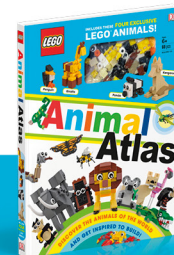
The polar regions are the **coldest on Earth**, but that doesn't put off some wildlife! Plants are scarce, so most animals are carnivores (meat-eaters), like the polar bear.

Guanaco

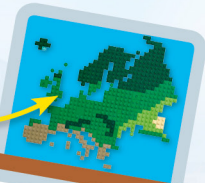


▲ Mountains

The high life is often harsh, with hardly any shelter from **strong sun or bitter winds**. Mountain animals and plants definitely have to be tough to survive!



Where in Europe?



Urban animals

You might think a big, busy city like London is the last place you'd find wildlife. But if an animal can cope with all the hustle and bustle, a city can actually be an ideal home, providing plenty of food, shelter and warmth.

Ultra-fast fluttering wings make a buzzing noise



MY BLACK AND YELLOW STRIPES WARN ENEMIES TO BUZZ OFF!

▲ Bumble bee

Bumble bees busily fly round city parks and gardens, drinking sweet nectar from flowers. One bee might visit 200,000 flowers in its lifetime!

▼ Red fox

Foxes will eat lots of different foods, from mice and birds to berries and insects. City foxes also enjoy tasty takeaways by raiding dustbins for the food that we throw away.



A fox can hear a mouse 100 m (33 ft) away - even if it's underground!

CITY FOXES LIKE ME MAKE OUR DENS UNDER GARDEN SHEDS.

Habitat facts

Peregrine falcons usually hunt from clifftops. But city peregrines **nest on skyscrapers** instead, diving off them and swooping down on birds flying below.

Gardens are home to an **amazing variety** of wildlife! A normal city garden can contain hundreds of species of insects, spiders and worms.

I SWALLOW FISH HEAD FIRST, SO THEIR SCALES DON'T STICK IN MY THROAT!

Pointed beak for spearing fish



Kingfisher ▶

The bright blue kingfisher has become more common along city rivers and canals. This is partly because the water is cleaner now, so there are more fish for the kingfisher to hunt.

Waterproof feathers



I'M A MALE MALLARD. I'M MUCH MORE COLOURFUL THAN MY FEMALE MATE!

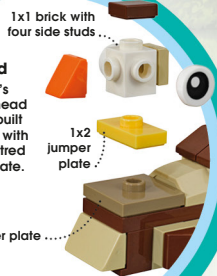
▲ Mallard

As long as there's a pond or stream nearby, ducks can live very well in cities. In fact, ducks live in every part of the world, except Antarctica.

Build it!

Duck build

This mallard's bill, eyes and head plumage are built around a brick with side studs, centred on a jumper plate.

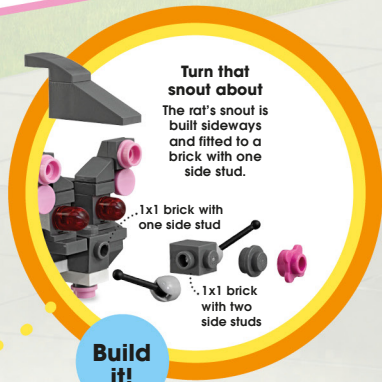


Rat ▶

The rat is a survival expert - it can live almost anywhere. It's a brilliant climber, jumper, digger and swimmer. In fact, if rats were human, they'd be Olympic champions!



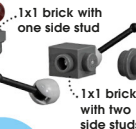
Long whiskers help to find the way in the dark



Turn that snout about

The rat's snout is built sideways and fitted to a brick with one side stud.

Build it!



Sharp spikes keep nosy predators away



Snuffy nose sniffs out prey

▲ Hedgehog

City people like to see hedgehogs in their gardens. They know that a hedgehog means a lot fewer snails and slugs to munch on their flowers and vegetables!

MY LUXURY BURROW HAS MANY ROOMS. THERE'S EVEN ONE FOR STORING WORMS!

Strong front feet for digging



▼ Mole

You might never spot a mole, but little piles of earth on the lawn are sure signs that a mole has been hard at work digging tunnels under your garden!

