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.

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

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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

Think about your favourite animals. What habitat would they live in?

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Urban animals

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**Mallard**

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**Bumble bee**

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

**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.

**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!

**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!

**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.

**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!

Look outside your window and try building the first animal you see out of LEGO® bricks!

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