Living things and their habitats

Y2 Knowledge organiser

Living, dead or never been alive?

Living things grow and move. They need food, water and air to survive. Dead things were **once alive**, while objects like rocks or toys have **never been alive**.



living



dead



never been alive

What do living things need to survive?

All living things need **food**, **water**, **air** and the **right conditions** to stay healthy and grow. Plants and animals, including humans, all rely on their **habitats** to give them these basic needs.

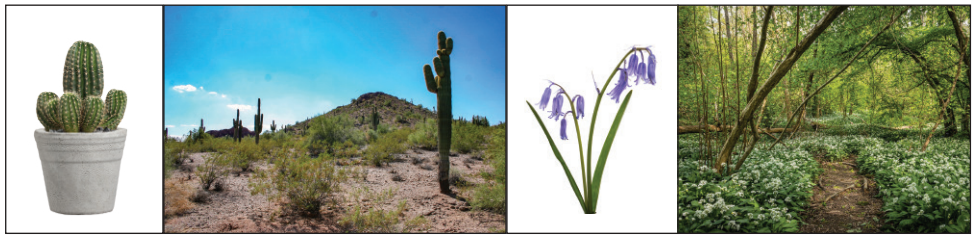
- food
- water
- air



- shelter
- space

What is a habitat?

A **habitat** is the place where a living thing **lives** and finds everything it **needs to survive**. Different habitats have **different conditions**, which means only certain plants and animals can live there.



Living things can only **survive** in habitats that suit their needs.

Microhabitats

A **microhabitat** is a small part of a habitat with its own conditions, such as **sunny**, **shady**, **dry**, **damp**, **warm** or **cool**. Different living things use different microhabitats because it provides the **right place for them to survive**.

Woodlice live in **dark**, **damp** microhabitats under rocks, wood or **leaves** where the conditions suit them best.



How are animals suited to an environment?

Animals have ***features*** that help them survive in their habitat, such as **thick *fur*** for cold places, **colours** for hiding or special **body shapes** that help them **move** or ***find food***.



A **camel** can store water and is suited to **hot**, **dry habitats**.



A **polar bear** has thick white fur and is suited to **cold**, **snowy habitats**.

Food chains

A ***food chain*** shows how living things in a habitat are **linked by what they eat**. The arrows in a food chain mean "**is eaten by**", helping us see who eats what.







grass ⟶ snail ⟶ bird

A food chain **always** starts with a plant.

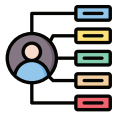
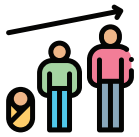
Protecting habitats

When habitats **change**, living things can lose the food, water and shelter they need to survive.

We can help **protect** habitats by reducing litter, looking after plants and wildlife, and keeping natural areas safe and clean.



Key vocabulary

 **alive**	 **conditions**	 **damp**	 **dead**	 **environment**
 ***feature***	 **grow**	 **living**	 **move**	 **plant**
 **protect**	 **shade**	 **sheltered**	 **soil**	 **suitable**