

# Habitats

## What is a habitat?

A habitat is a place where plants and animals live. There are many different habitats on Earth, including:



forest



polar



desert



ocean



mountain



rainforest

Every habitat provides the things that plants and animals need to survive:

- **food** to provide nutrients for energy and growth
- **water** for plants to make food and stand upright and for animals to stay alive
- **shelter** for protection from weather and predators
- **space** to grow, feed and have offspring

## Living and non-living things

Habitats contain living things, such as plants and animals, and non-living things, such as dead plants and animals, rocks and water. Living things can be identified because they carry out the seven life processes:

- moving
- breathing
- using their senses
- feeding
- getting rid of waste
- producing offspring
- growing

## Identifying plants and animals

Many different plants and animals live in a habitat. Unknown plants and animals can be identified using spotting sheets. Observations of what they look like and how they behave can be compared with pictures and descriptions of plants and animals on the spotting sheet to find a match.

## Food chains

A food chain shows how energy from food is transferred from plants to animals in a habitat. The arrow between members of a food chain means 'is eaten by'. Food chains start with a plant because plants make their own food using sunlight. Plants are eaten by animals, some of which are eaten by other animals. Predators are animals that eat other animals. Prey are animals that are eaten.



grass (producer)

is eaten by →



water vole (herbivore)

is eaten by →



stoat (carnivore)

In this food chain, the grass is a producer because it makes its own food from sunlight. It is eaten by the water vole, a herbivore, which is eaten by the stoat, a carnivore. The stoat is the predator, and the water vole is its prey.

## Woodland habitats

Woodland habitats are green, damp and shady. They contain living things, such as oak trees and squirrels, and non-living things, such as rocks and streams. Woodland habitats provide everything needed for its living things to survive and grow.

