

Living things and their habitats

Local habitats: garden and woodland habitats

*Year 4
Age 8-9*



For parents

Thank you for supporting your child's learning in science.

Before the session:

- Please read slide 2 so you know what your child is learning and what you need to get ready.
- You may like to print slide 6.

During the session:

- Share the learning intentions on slide 2.
- Support your child with the activities on slides 3-4, as needed.
- Using slides 5-7, help your child conduct an outside survey of a garden habitat (if it is possible for your family).
- There are alternative suggestions if you cannot go outside.
- Slide 8 has a glossary of key terms.

Reviewing with your child:

- Slide 9 gives an idea of what your child may produce.



Explore, review, think, talk....

*What do you already know about woodland or garden habitats?
(10 minutes)*

Think or talk about a garden, park or woodland near your home.

- What kind of animals, plants and other living things do you know that live there?



- Watch this clip about earthworms.
<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/earthworm-heroes.html>

Think or talk about two reasons why earthworms are important in a garden or wood.



Now watch this clip to find out how other living things help to break down leaves.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/science-ks1-ks2-fallen-leaves-fungi-slime-molds/z7cb47h>



Micro-habitats

*What kind of micro-habitats are found in woodland or gardens?
(10 minutes)*

There are a huge variety of animals, plants and fungi in woods and gardens.

- Some animals live, feed and move around in the habitat, such as birds and rabbits.
- Other animals live all their time in a small place or **micro-habitat**.

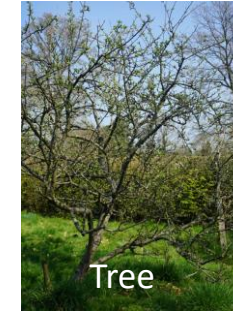


For example, a rotting log provides shelter for centipedes and woodlice and there may be decaying leaves for them to eat.

What kind of animals do you think you might find in these micro-habitats?



Pile of leaf litter



Tree



Patch of long grass

What kind of animals might move around to feed in a whole garden habitat?

Jot down your ideas.

Watch these clips for clues.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003lc9k>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003kmh2>



Garden and woodland habitats

Observing a habitat and micro-habitats by conducting a survey
(Page 4-6: 40 minutes)

- If you have access to a garden, conduct a survey of the habitat. You can also find animals or plants in micro-habitats by looking under logs, stones, bushes or loose soil.
- Use the **identification key** on page 6 to help you.
- Make a note of where you find each type of animal.



- *Ask an adult to help you plan and conduct your habitat and micro-habitat survey.*
- *Follow government guidelines on social distancing and staying safe.*
- *Take care with the plants and animals you find. Avoid touching them, especially those which might bite or sting.*
- *Remember to leave the plants and animals in their habitat.*



If you are unable to go outside, you can find out more about woodland habitats here:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/habitats/>

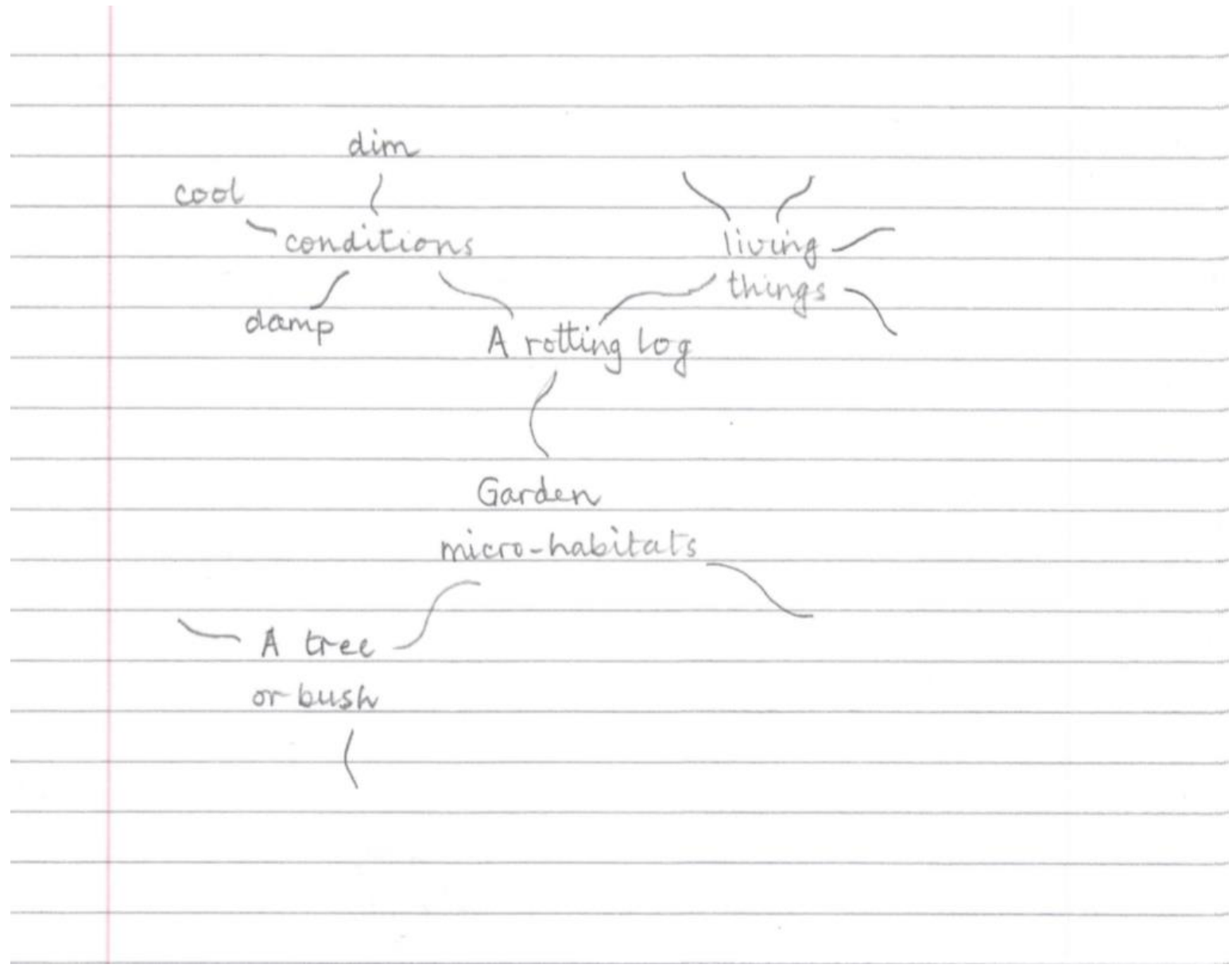
Make a mind map or poster of two or three different micro-habitats you found.

- Describe the conditions in each micro-habitat.
 - Dry, damp or wet?
 - Light, dim or dark?
 - Warm or cool?
- Add the names of some living things you found.

If you are unable to go outside, use this link to make a poster about a rotting log micro-habitat:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/rotting-log/>

I can describe the conditions in some micro-habitats. I can name some living things in a garden or woodland habitat.



Glossary of terms

Environment: The **environment** includes all living and non-living things. Animals and plants rely on the living and non-living parts of the environment to survive.

Habitat: Living things live in a **habitat** which provides an environment to which they are suited. A **habitat** provides living things with food and shelter.

Condition: Each habitat has different **conditions** such as the amount of light, the temperature and the amount of moisture.

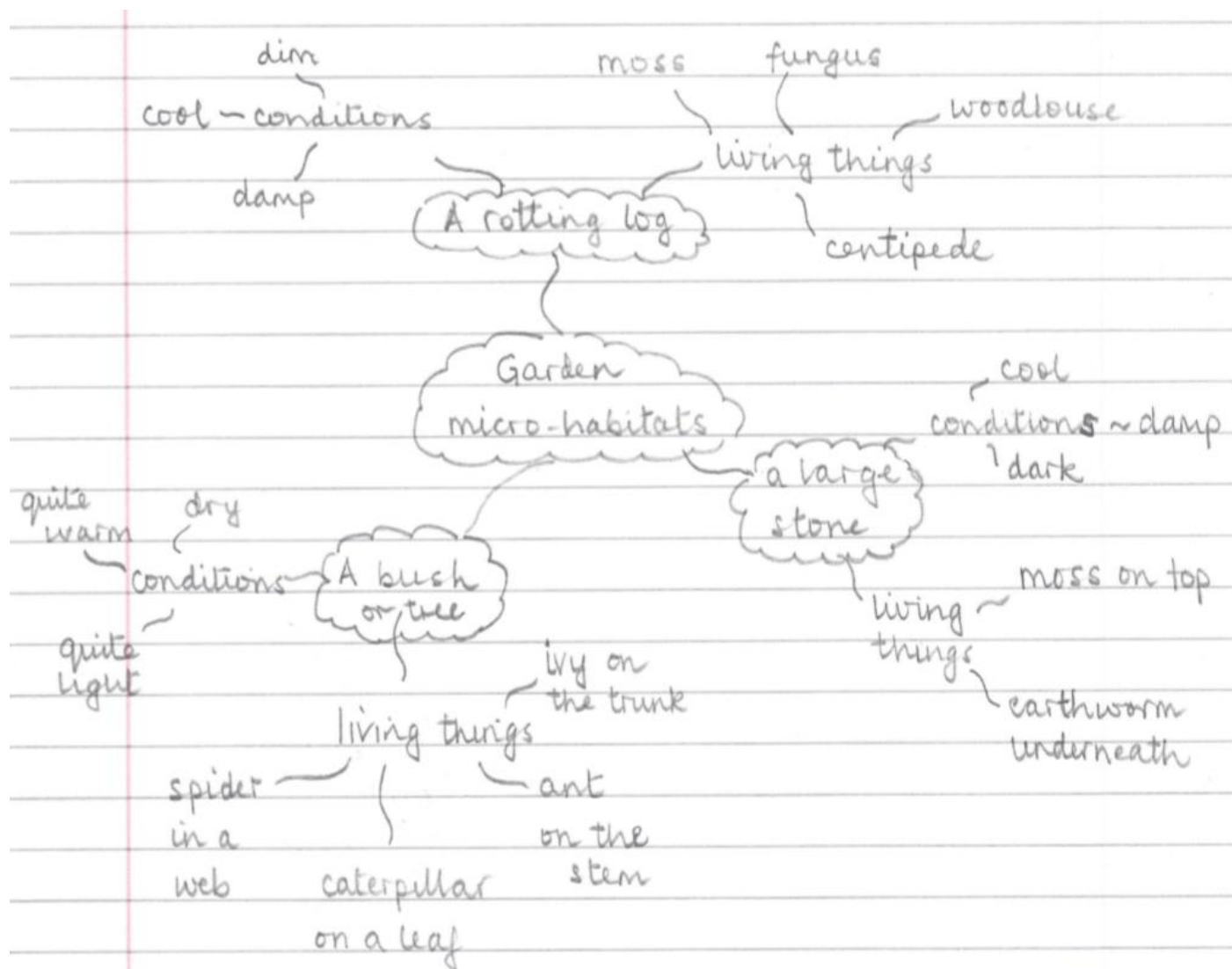
Micro-habitat: A **micro-habitat** is a small-scale habitat where certain animals or plants can survive. It is usually different from the wider environment.

Identification key: An **identification key** is a useful tool for identifying unknown living things.

Survey: **Scientific surveys** are a common method used to collect data about living things.

Possible learning outcome for reviewing your work.

I can describe the conditions in some micro-habitats. I can name some living things in a garden or woodland habitat.



A rotting log can provide food and shelter for woodland mushrooms and other fungi as well as small animals like woodlice and centipedes. The conditions are usually damp and cool.

Stones sometimes have moss growing on top. It is dark underneath the stone and earthworms often lurk there.

A tree or bush can be a habitat for many living things. Fungi, moss or ivy can be growing on the trunk of a tree. Spiders often make webs in the branches. In the spring and summer months, caterpillars can be found eating the leaves. Ants can sometimes be seen running along the stems.