

# Living Things and their Habitats

## Year 2 Science

### National Curriculum

#### Science skills

- Identifying and classifying using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions.
- Gathering and recording data to help in answering questions.
- Explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive.
- Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.
- Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats.
- describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.

### Images



### Vocabulary

**Life processes** - These are the things that all living things do. They move, breathe, sense, grow, make babies, get rid of waste and get their energy from food.

**Living** - Things that are living have all the life processes.

**Dead** - Things that are dead were once living. They did have all the life processes but don't now.

**Never living** - Things made out of metal, plastic or rock were never living. They never had the life processes.

**Food Chain** - A food chain shows how each animal gets its food. Food chains are one of the ways that living things depend on each other to stay alive.

**Habitat** - A habitat is the natural place something lives. A habitat provides living things with everything they need to survive such as food, shelter and water.

**Microhabitat** - A microhabitat is a very small habitat in places like under a rock, under leaves or on a branch.

Our planet provides everything that we and all living things need. We call it our **environment**.

## Key Learning

- 1** How can I tell if something is alive?

We use the mnemonic MRS GREEN to remind us of all the life processes that living things do. All living things, including plants and animals can move, respire, sense, grow, reproduce, excrete and need nutrition. By looking at life processes we can decide whether something is alive, dead or has never lived.
- 2** What sort of habitats can I see in our local area?

Our local area is in the countryside. We can find creatures living in fields, ponds, woods, parks, hedgerows, forests, hills and streams in our local area. Creatures need a habitat that can provide food, shelter and safety so that they can survive and raise their young.
- 3** What is a microhabitat?

A microhabitat is a very small habitat for example under a rock or on a log. Tiny creatures inhabit these places and are dependent on it for all their needs to survive.
- 4** What sort of habitats can be seen around the world?

Some of the different habitats found around the world include rainforests, deserts, oceans and the polar regions (Arctic and Antarctic).
- 5** How are animals and plants suited to their habitats and how do different living things live in different places?

Living things in a habitat depend on each other. This means they need each other to stay alive. Animals are adapted to their environments and often wouldn't be able to survive anywhere else. For example, we see animals in the polar regions that have thick fur and blubber to help to keep them warm, and animals in the desert that have ways of surviving extreme hot and cold temperatures and managing with little water.
- 6** What is a food chain?

A food chain shows how plants and animals get their energy. A food chain always starts with a producer. This is an organism that makes its own food. Most food chains start with a green plant, because plants can make their food by photosynthesis. A living thing that eats other plants and animals is called a consumer.