



Year

2

Topic

Living things and their habitats

- 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 micro-habitats.
- 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.
- Explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive.

Prior learning

- Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. (Y1 - Plants)
- Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees. (Y1 - Plants)
- Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. (Y1 - Animals including humans)
- Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. (Y1 - Animals including humans)
- Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets). (Y1 – Animals, including humans)
- Observe changes across the four seasons. (Y1 - Seasonal changes)

Future learning

- Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. (Y4 - Living things and their habitats)
- Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. (Y4 - Living things and their habitats)
- Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. (Y4 - Living things and their habitats)
- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey. (Y4 - Animals, including humans)

WHAT PUPILS NEED TO KNOW OR DO TO BE SECURE

Show understanding of a concept using scientific vocabulary correctly

Key learning

All objects are either living, dead or have never been alive. Living things are plants (including seeds) and animals. Dead things include dead animals and plants and parts of plants and animals that are no longer attached e.g. leaves and twigs, shells, fur, hair and feathers (This is a simplification, but appropriate for Year 2 children.)

An object made of wood is classed as dead. Objects made of rock, metal and plastic have never been alive (again ignoring that plastics are made of fossil fuels).

Animals and plants live in a habitat to which they are suited, which means that animals have suitable features that help them move and find food and plants have suitable features that help them to grow well. The habitat provides the basic needs of the animals and plants – shelter, food and water.

Within a habitat there are different micro-habitats e.g. in a woodland – in the leaf litter, on the bark of trees, on the leaves. These micro-habitats have different conditions e.g. light or dark, damp or dry. These conditions affect which plants and animals live there. The plants and animals in a habitat depend on each other for food and shelter etc. The way that animals obtain their food from plants and other animals can be shown in a food chain.

Key vocabulary

- Living, dead, never been alive, suited, suitable, basic needs, food, food chain, shelter, move, feed
- Names of local habitats e.g. pond, woodland etc.
- Names of micro-habitats e.g. under logs, in bushes etc.

Possible evidence

- Can find a range of items outside that are living, dead and never lived
- Can name a range of animals and plants that live in a habitat and micro-habitats that they have studied
- Can talk about how the features of these animals and plants make them suitable to the habitat
- Can talk about what the animals eat in a habitat and how the plants provide shelter for them
- Can construct a food chain that starts with a plant and has the arrows pointing in the correct direction

Common misconceptions

Some children may think:

an animal's habitat is like its 'home'

plants and seeds are not alive as they cannot be seen to move • fire is living

arrows in a food chain mean 'eats'.

Apply knowledge in familiar related contexts, including a range of enquiries

Activities	Possible evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore the outside environment regularly to find objects that are living, dead and have never lived.• Classify objects found in the local environment.• Observe animals and plants carefully, drawing and labelling diagrams.• Create simple food chains for a familiar local habitat from first-hand observation and research.• Create simple food chains from information given e.g. in picture books (Gruffalo etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can sort into living, dead and never lived• Can give key features that mean the animal or plant is suited to its micro-habitat• Using a food chain can explain what animals eat• Can explain in simple terms why an animal or plant is suited to a habitat e.g. the caterpillar cannot live under the soil like a worm as it needs fresh leaves to eat; the seaweed we found on the beach cannot live in our pond because it is not salty