



What are habitats?

By the end of the lesson the learners will be able to:

- Name three different types of habitats, and identify three animals that thrive in each habitat
- Consider what living in one of these habitats would feel like

Materials and preparation

- A3 pictures of five different habitats, stuck on the wall. Make sure there is enough space around each A3 sheet so that five A4 sheets can be stuck around each of them.
- 25 A4 sheets representing animals belonging to the five habitats (five animals per habitat), stuck on the wall., away from the A3 habitat sheets.
- Teacher's answer sheet for each habitat and how animals have adapted to these.
- Example of a paragraph written about a particular animal and its environment.
- The attached prompt sheet to help learners with literacy difficulties.

Key words

habitat

The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

climate

The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general, or over a long period.

Starter

Discussion
5 mins

In pairs, ask learners to name what they like about where they live (the place where they stay as well as their area) for two minutes.

Ask pairs to report back, then ask the whole class the following questions:

1. Where do you get your food and water from?
2. What makes you feel comfortable at home?
3. How important do you think it is for animals to also feel comfortable at home?

Main activity

*Match-up
activity
5 mins*

1. Explain that learners are going to find out about the different places where animals live in the world.
2. Show the **A3 picture** of the habitat that is the most familiar to your learners.
3. Ask what the climate is like on the picture (is it hot, dry? etc...) Ask what the land is like (fertile, arid, flat, etc...) Ask what plants they can see.
4. Then ask what types of animals they expect to see there. If they name an animal that features on your flashcard, stick that flashcard next to the landscape picture. Continue the same way for the rest of the animals corresponding to this habitat. (There should be five corresponding animals. Use the **Teacher's answer sheet** for guidance).

*Analysing
pictures
10 minutes*

1. Write the word HABITAT as an anagram on the board (for example, TIBHATA) and tell the class that they need to try and work out what word the anagram is hiding. The word they are looking for describes the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. (This is a hint you can use.)
2. Once the word 'habitat' has been identified, draw the learners' attention to the rest of the **A3 habitats** on the wall and mention that these are some of the different habitats for animals around the world.
3. Get the class to describe each habitat, using the same criteria used at the beginning of the lesson (climate, land and plants).

*Match-up
group activity
10 minutes*

1. Get the class to work in groups of four to five people. Ask each group to focus on one of the habitats and to find five animals from the animals displayed on the wall that would live in that habitat.
2. You can ask multiple groups to focus on the same habitat. At this stage, groups should use numbers to refer to each animal if they don't know their name but also name them wherever they can. For example, for the sea habitat, the group would write: #15, shark on their list.

*Reporting
back
15 mins*

1. Choose the first group to come up to the board and to report on the five animals they chose for their habitat. Members of the group pick the pictures of their animals and stick them next to their habitat.
2. If another group disagrees, let one member of that group come up to the board and explain why they think a particular animal belongs to another habitat.
3. Feel free to add information about why an animal is more adapted to a particular habitat than another, by using your teacher's information sheet.

*Written task
10 mins*

1. Ask learners to pick their favourite habitat and their favourite animal and to write a paragraph relating to these (this task will need to be continued for homework).
2. Learners should write from the animal's point of view and explain what makes their habitat perfect to them, what they like about their habitat and how they would feel if their habitat was damaged through pollution, or made smaller, for example through deforestation.
3. Read the **paragraph example** provided aloud so that learners understand exactly what to do. For learners who find it difficult to write, provide them with the **prompt sheet**.

Plenary
*Feedback
5 mins*

Ask some learners to read the beginning of their paragraph to inspire those who find it difficult to start.

*Optional, if time
allows in the
following lesson*

When the paragraphs are finished, the learners can choose a habitat to illustrate, and include drawings of their favourite animals. These can then be displayed in the classroom or school.



Use this sheet to answer learners' questions about certain animals' features and how these help them survive in their habitat.

Desert animals

Camel (12)

They have a thick coat of hair that protects them from the sun. They have wide, soft feet, so they can walk for a long time in the hot sand. When there is food and water, a camel can eat and drink large amounts and store it as fat in the hump.

Scorpion (24)

They burrow underground during the day to escape the heat, coming out at night to hunt. They can also keep water in their body because of their thick skin.

Arabian oryx (3)

Their bright white coat reflects the sun's rays and their hooves are shovel-like and splayed, giving the animal a large surface area which helps it to walk on the sandy ground.

Fennec fox (18)

Their large ears help dissipate excess body heat. Their kidneys are adapted to restrict water loss. They can obtain moisture from the food they eat and by licking the dew that forms in their deep dens. Their thick fur helps insulate them from the cold desert nights. Fennec foxes also have thick fur on the soles of their feet, which insulate against the hot sand.

Spiny-tailed lizard (9)

They rarely need to drink as they extract most of their water from their food.

Savanna animals

Elephant (4)

Their big ears and wrinkly skin help them stay cool. Their tusks help them eat and protect themselves. Their trunk is used for lifting heavy things. Their tail is used for swaying away insects and for their babies to hang on to.

Giraffe (13)

They can go weeks without water as they rely on morning dew and the water content of their food. Their very long necks help them feed at high levels in the treetops. Long, tough tongues enable the giraffe to pull leaves without being hurt by the thorns. Their spotted coat helps them hide among the trees.

Cheetah (5)

They are the fastest land animal on Earth because of their flexible spine and long legs. Their muscles are long and lean and they have light, tall bodies for their size. They have extremely large lungs, heart and nostrils in order to take in and use large amounts of oxygen during short, fast sprints. Their spotted coat helps them hide among the grass.

Baboon (20)

They can eat a wide diversity of foods such as leaves, roots, fruits, seeds, eggs, and insects. They can also hunt baby gazelles or small monkeys. Their cheek pouches help them to store food and their sharp claws to defend themselves. Because baboons sit on their rumps instead of squatting like other monkeys, their bottoms are covered with hairless pads of hard skin.

Zebra (16)

The striped marking on their body make it difficult for predators to target individual zebras in a large herd. Their legs are long and powerful up, allowing them to run up to 40 miles per hour to escape predators. In addition, zebras can kick at close range, using their hooves to deliver a kick capable of injuring or even killing an animal as large as a lion. Their strong teeth allow them to eat thick grass.

Sea animals**Octopus (1)**

They can instantly change the colour and texture of their skin to match their surroundings to hide from predators. Because they lack skeletons, they can hide by squeezing into tiny crevices on the ocean floor. They can move at rapid speeds through jet propulsion by sucking water into the bulb-like part of their body and forcing it out through a funnel.

Turtle (10)

Their webbed feet, flippers and streamlined body help them swim fast. Turtles have more than one lung located on the top of their shells for breathing. They have tissues in the back of their mouth that allow them to extract oxygen directly from water; enabling them to remain submerged in the water for 40 minutes.

Starfish (22)

After a predator's attack a few species of starfish can regrow almost their entire bodies from just a part of a severed arm. They locate molluscs with light-sensing eyespots at their arm tips, then pry open the shell with hundreds of suction-cupped tube feet.

Pufferfish (6)

Their skin has folds so that they can swallow water and blow themselves up to look bigger and can scare predators away. They have a powerful jaw to break through clams.

Shark (15)

They can swim very fast thanks to their fins, powerful tail and streamlined body. Their razor-sharp teeth allow them to attack their prey without much effort so that they can spend their energy to migrate, mate and hunt.

Jungle animals

Two-toed sloth (7)

Their arms are longer than their legs and they have curved feet for grasping branches. Being extremely slow means that they are difficult to spot. Their grey-brown fur matches tree trunks and they have green algae growing from their hair, enabling them to better blend into the leaves. Their thick, dense coats help keep them dry during the rainy season. They can use their long, sharp claws and very sharp teeth to defend themselves.

Macaw parrot (14)

They have large, powerful beaks and big feet and claws that help them easily crack nuts and seeds, while their dry, scaly tongues have a bone inside them which is useful for tapping into fruits. Their bright colours are useful, letting them be seen among the trees by their fellows, but appear as flowers to their predators. Their feathers are large, thick and strong and shed water.

Poison dart frog (11)

Their tiny size makes them difficult to spot but their bright colour helps tell predators that they are dangerous. Their feet have suction cups to help them climb vertically up trees.

Python (2)

Their size makes them a threat to very large animals. Pythons carefully coil themselves around their prey and tighten themselves, causing the animal to lose their breath and eventually suffocate. Pythons' skin is coloured much like its surroundings. They can unhinge their jaw and consume their prey completely whole.

Morpho butterfly (21)

Their bright wings, when flashed, can startle an animal. When they are at rest, they fold their wings up over their bodies, showing eyespots and brownish colouring, deterring or frightening predators. They feed on a wide variety of rotting fruits and tree sap found in the jungle.

River animals

Goliath tiger fish (17)

They have an excellent eyesight and they have an internal air sac in their body that reacts to vibrations much like a drum, alerting the fish to movement nearby. They have very powerful tail muscles to help fight the currents of the river. Their teeth are extremely sharp.

Nile monitor (19)

Their tail may grow more than a metre in length and is used as a counterweight when running, an oar to help power them through the water and a whip with which to lash out at a predator. They can remain underwater for more than an hour.

Great egret (25)

They have long legs for wading and a sharp bill designed for grasping or spearing slippery prey. Great egrets' necks, like all herons, is shaped like an "S", enabling swift stabbing motions.

Hippopotamus (23)

Because their eyes, nose, and ears sit on top of their head, they can sink the rest of their body down into the water and almost disappear. Their ears and nose close up to keep water from getting inside. Their eyes have a clear membrane covering them that works like a pair of goggles, keeping the water out while still letting them see. They can hold their breath for up to 30 minutes and they can "sleep" underwater: While sleeping, a body reflex bobs them up to the surface to take a breath, and then allows them to sink back underwater, without them waking up.

Crocodile (8)

Their webbed feet help them to swim and their flattened tails helps them propel through the water. They can go without food for over a year. They seek out water when the weather is hot and lie in the sun whenever they are cold. This allows them to conserve energy, which is helpful when food is scarce.