



Habitats and the Animals That Live There

KS2 SCIENCE

LIVING THINGS AND THEIR HABITATS

Ages 9-12



3 min read

What Is a Habitat?

A **habitat** is a place where an animal or plant lives. It's like a home, but instead of a house, it's a whole environment with everything the animal needs to survive. Every habitat has **food**, **water**, **shelter**, and the right **temperature** and **weather** for the animals living there.

Different animals need different habitats because they've adapted to live in specific places. A polar bear couldn't survive in a hot desert, and a camel couldn't live in the freezing Arctic. Each animal is perfectly designed for its own home.

Think of it like choosing a school uniform. You wear different clothes for different weather because each outfit is designed for that situation. Animals are the same—they're designed for their specific habitats.

Forest Habitats

Forests are habitats with lots of trees and plants. They provide food, shelter, and shade. Animals like **squirrels**, **deer**, **owls**, and **insects** live in forests. Some forest animals like **badgers** live underground, while others like **woodpeckers** live high in the trees.

Ocean Habitats

The **ocean** is the largest habitat on Earth. It covers more than **70 percent** of our planet. Ocean animals include **fish**, **whales**, **dolphins**, **sharks**, and tiny creatures called **plankton**. Some ocean animals live near the surface where sunlight reaches, while others live in the deep, dark waters below.

Desert Habitats

Deserts are hot, dry places with very little rain. Animals here must survive without much water. **Camels** can go weeks without drinking. **Lizards**, **scorpions**, and **snakes** shelter underground during the hottest parts of the day to stay cool.

Think of it like a video game. Each level (habitat) has different challenges and enemies, so you need different skills and equipment to survive in each one.

Grassland and Arctic Habitats

Grasslands are open spaces with grass and few trees. **Lions, zebras, giraffes,** and **wildebeest** live here. The **Arctic** is frozen and icy, home to **polar bears, penguins, seals,** and **walruses.**

Understanding habitats helps us protect animals and keep our planet healthy. When habitats are destroyed, animals have nowhere to live. By learning about different habitats, we can help save endangered animals and their homes.