

Animal Survival

Habitats

A habitat is a place where plants and animals live. There are different habitats, such as forests, polar regions, deserts, oceans, mountains and rainforests.

Habitats have living and non-living parts. Living parts include the plants and animals that live there. Non-living parts include sunlight, air, water, soil and temperature. Each habitat varies in its living and non-living parts.

All living things depend on the living and non-living things in their habitat to survive. This is called interdependence.



mountain habitat



ocean habitat

Invertebrates

Invertebrates are animals without a backbone. They can be sorted based on what they look like. Six invertebrate groups include arachnids, crustaceans, insects, molluscs, myriapods and worms.



mollusc

Microhabitats

A microhabitat is a small habitat contained within a larger habitat. There are different microhabitats.



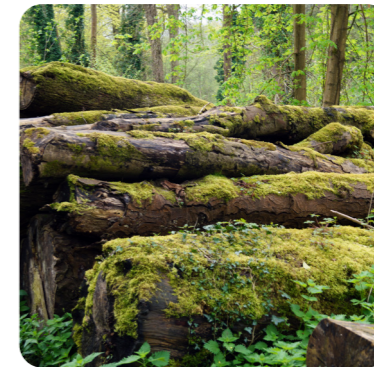
rock pool



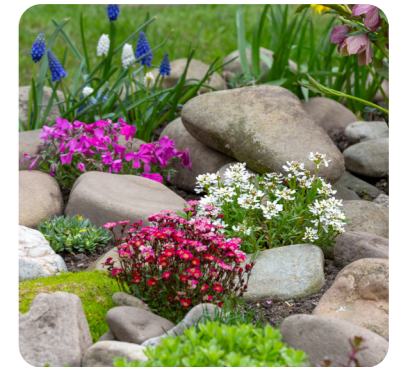
pond



hedgerow



under logs and stones



The living and non-living parts of a microhabitat can be very different to those in the surrounding larger habitat. For example, a pond is found within a larger garden habitat. It is different to the garden because it contains freshwater where frogs, pond snails and duckweed can live.

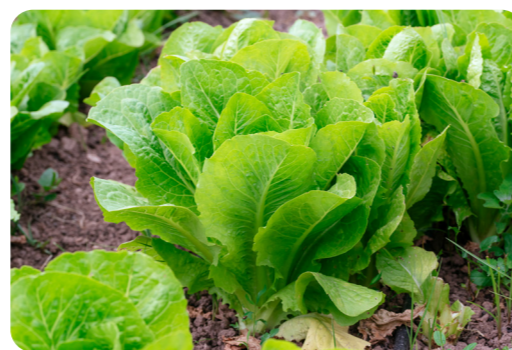
Survival

Habitats provide the food, water, air, shelter and space that animals need to survive. They need food and water for energy and growth. They need air to breathe. Animals need shelter for protection from weather or dangers. They need space to grow and reproduce.



Food chains

A food chain shows how living things depend on one another for food. All food chains start with a plant, which is a producer, followed by animals, which are consumers. Animals can be herbivores that only eat plants, carnivores that only eat meat or omnivores that eat plants and meat.



lettuce (plant)



slug (omnivore)



hedgehog (carnivore)



Humans and habitats

Humans can harm the habitats of other living things by using chemicals on their gardens, tidying green spaces and digging up habitats. Litter can also harm habitats.



Humans can help habitats in many different ways. They can feed wildlife and build microhabitats, such as ponds or insect hotels. They can leave wild, uncut areas in gardens or public places. They can also remove weeds by hand instead of using chemicals.



feeding wildlife

insect hotel



wild, uncut areas

weeding by hand

Animals and the seasons

Animals change their behaviour as the seasons change in the United Kingdom. In spring, animals reproduce and have offspring. In summer, young animals grow and develop. In autumn, animals prepare for winter. In winter, animals protect themselves from the cold weather by sheltering, hibernating or migrating.



Offspring

Adult animals reproduce to have young called offspring. Having offspring is important for the continued survival of all species of animals. Some offspring look like smaller versions of their parents. Others look very different to their parents.



calf

cow

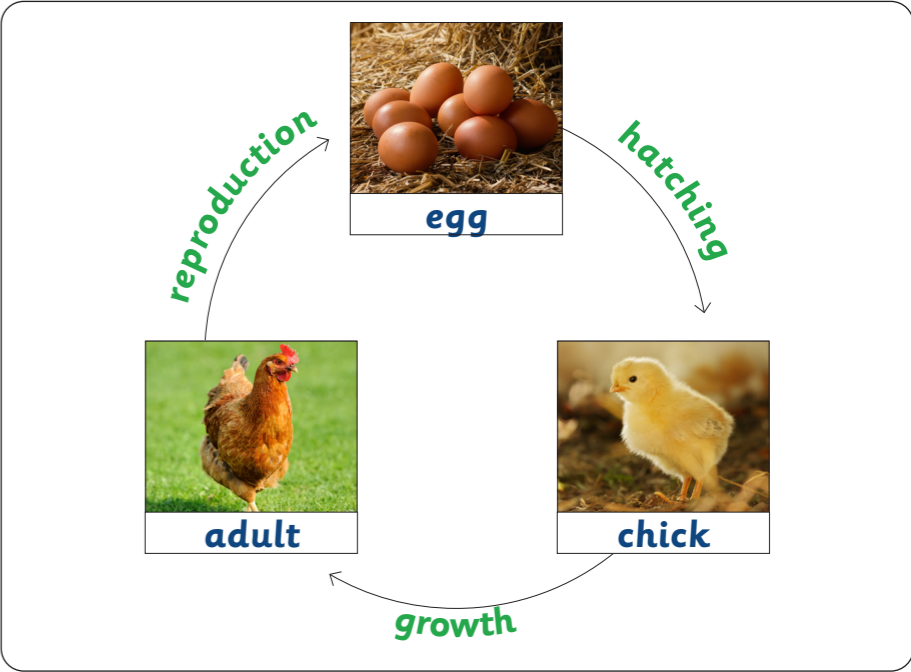


tadpole

frog

Life cycles

All animals have a life cycle. Different animals have different life cycles. A life cycle shows the series of changes that happen to a living thing during its life. A life cycle starts again when adult animals reproduce and have offspring.



chicken's life cycle

Glossary

consumer	A living thing that feeds on other living things. All consumers are animals.
hibernation	A period of deep sleep and inactivity during winter.
producer	A living thing that makes its own food for energy. All producers are plants.
reproduce	The process of producing offspring.
survive	To continue to live or exist.

