

Year 2

Unit: Living things and their habitats

Prior learning

Year 1 – Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, common flowering plants, trees, and common animals.

Year 1 – Describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants.

Year 1 – Identify common animals that are carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores.

Year 1 – Observe changes across the four seasons.

Later learning (not in Year 2)

Year 4 – Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.

Year 4 – Explore and use classification keys to help identify, name, and group living things.

Year 4 – Recognise that environments can change.

Key Questions:

How do worms help keep their habitat healthy?

What would come next in a food chain?
Berry, Bird, ...

What do all living things need to survive?

Give an example of a microhabitat.

How do you know if something has never been alive?

Intent:

To explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive.

To identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how habitats provide for the basic needs of different living things.

To describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain.

Key learning

A habitat is a place where living things, such as animals and plants, can find all the things they need to survive. This includes food, water, air, space to move and grow, and shelter.

Some habitats are large, like the ocean. Some are very small, such as under a log. This is an example of a microhabitat.

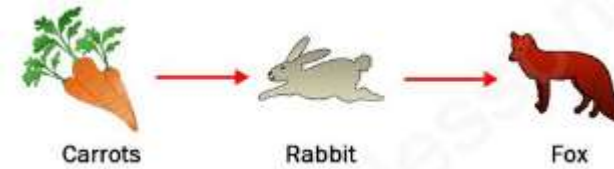
Microhabitats are very small habitats where minibeasts may live. Examples of microhabitats include under stones, in grass, under fallen leaves, and in the soil. Minibeasts can survive in their habitats because they can find the things they need to survive there, such as food and water. For example, caterpillars can survive on leaves as they give them food.

Animals and plants depend on each other to survive. For example, worms depend on plants because they feed on dead leaves, but plants depend on worms as they make the soil healthy by digging holes and allowing air in.

Birds also need worms because they eat them. Worms are a source of food for birds. This is called a food chain.

If there were no worms, there would be fewer birds as there would be more competition for food. The soil would not be as healthy without worms.

All living things have a part to play in food chains. Without them, other animals and plants may not be able to survive.



Characteristics of living things

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Movement
Respiration
Sensitivity

Growth
Reproduction
Excretion
Nutrition

Living	Non-living

Dead

Never alive

Vocabulary

Adapts	Make something suitable for a new use.
Biomes	A natural area of vegetation and animals.
Carnivore	An animal that eats meat.
Casting	A worm's manure.
Compost	Decaying material to be used as fertilizer.
Crop	A plant that is grown usually for food.
Decomposing	Decaying, breaking down.
Depend	If you depend on someone or something, you need them to be able to survive.
Fertilizer	A substance added to soil to increase its goodness.
Food chain	A series of living things which are linked to each other because each thing feeds on the one next to it in the series.
Habitat	The natural environment in which a living thing normally lives or grows.
Herbivore	An animal that only eats plants.
Invertebrate	A creature that does not have a spine, for example an insect, a worm, or an octopus.
Matter	A physical substance.
Microhabitat	A small part of the environment that supports a habitat, such as a fallen log in a forest.
Mini beast	A small invertebrate animal such as an insect or spider.
Nutrients	A substance that provides food essential to life.
Offspring	A person's children or an animal's young.
Omnivore	A person or animal which eats all kinds of food, including both meat and plants.
Plant	A living thing that grows in the earth and has a stem, leaves, and roots.
Source	Where something comes from.
Survive	Continue to live or exist.
Thrive	To grow or develop well.
Tree	A tall plant that has a hard trunk, branches, and leaves.
Vegetation	Plants, trees, and flowers.
Vertebrate	A creature which has a spine.