

Habitats

What is a habitat?

A habitat is a place where plants and animals live. There are many different habitats on Earth, including:



forest



polar



desert



ocean



mountain



rainforest

Every habitat provides the things that plants and animals need to survive:

- **food** to provide nutrients for energy and growth
- **water** for plants to make food and stand upright and for animals to stay alive
- **shelter** for protection from weather and predators
- **space** to grow, feed and have offspring

Living and non-living things

Habitats contain living things, such as plants and animals, and non-living things, such as dead plants and animals, rocks and water. Living things can be identified because they carry out the seven life processes:

- moving • breathing • using their senses • feeding
- getting rid of waste • producing offspring • growing

Food chains

A food chain shows how energy from food is transferred from plants to animals in a habitat. The arrow between members of a food chain means 'is eaten by'. Plants are eaten by animals, some of which are eaten by other animals. Predators are animals that eat other animals. Prey are animals that are eaten.



In this food chain, the grass is a producer because it makes its own food from sunlight. It is eaten by the water vole, which is eaten by the stoat. The stoat is the predator, and the water vole is its prey.

Glossary

habitat	A habitat is a place where plants and animals live.
producer	Plants are producers in a food chain because they make their own food from sunlight.
predator	Animals that eat other animals.
prey	Animals that are eaten by other animals.
food chain	A food chain shows how energy from food is transferred from plants to animals.