

Key Vocabulary Overview	
habitat	the natural place in which something lives, providing living things with everything they need to survive
rural habitat	habitats located outside towns or cities, usually with a lot of open land and very few buildings
urban habitat	habitats usually found within towns or cities, usually with a lot of buildings and little open land
biodiversity	the variety of living things found in a specific area
vertebrate	an animal with a spine (backbone)
invertebrate	an animal without a spine (backbone)

classification key	a tool used to help sort things into different groups
flowering plant	a plant that can produce flowers and fruit
non-flowering plant	a plant that does not produce flowers and fruit
natural materials	materials that come straight from something in nature, such as animals, plants or the Earth
deforestation	the human-led removal of areas of forest
rewilding	the process of humans restoring an area of land to its natural state
nature reserve	an area of land that is protected and managed by humans to preserve the living things and physical features found there

Conditions for Life

Living things need food, water, oxygen and the right temperature to survive and live healthily. Many living things also require shelter and sunlight for survival.

Habitats

A **habitat** is the place in which something lives. A **habitat** provides living things with everything they need to survive.



Habitats can be huge...



...or tiny.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living things found in a specific area or **habitat**. Areas with a limited variety of living things have low **biodiversity**.

Adaptations

Living things often have adaptations that help them to survive in their **habitats**.

Toucans have long curved beaks that help them to dig into trees for food.

Cacti have spines, rather than leaves, that protect them from herbivores and help reduce the amount of water they lose in hot climates.



toucan



cactus

Classification Key

Does it have flowers?

yes

no

Are the flowers yellow?

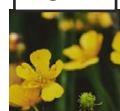
Does it have large fronds?

yes

no

yes

no



buttercups

bluebells

fern

moss

Classification

Classification is the sorting of things into groups according to their shared characteristics. We can classify animals and other living things by their **habitat** or into groups based on physical features, such as whether they are **vertebrates** or **invertebrates**. We can use a **classification key** to help sort things into different groups or to identify and sort animals.

Rural Habitats

Rural habitats are located away from towns or cities. Because there is a lot of space, **rural habitats** usually have high **biodiversity**.



Urban Habitats

Urban habitats are places such as towns or cities, where there are a lot of buildings and people.



Biodiversity is often low in **urban habitats** but some animals and plants have adapted to live in these areas, such as foxes.



Human Impact on Habitats

Humans can have a huge impact on **habitats** around the world, both positive and negative.

Negative Impact

Deforestation

Deforestation can cause animals and plants to become endangered or extinct. It can also lead to soil erosion, polluted water and an increase in greenhouse gases.



Mining and Quarrying

Mining and quarrying often cause large areas of **habitat** to be destroyed. This can lead to soil erosion and water pollution, as well as further reducing the **biodiversity** of an area.



Fossil Fuels

Taking too many natural resources from the environment can have many negative effects. Burning fossil fuels (such as coal, oil and gas) for energy releases greenhouse gases and contributes to climate change.



Positive Impact

Nature Reserves

Nature reserves are areas of land that are protected and managed by humans in order to keep the important plant and animal species that live there safe.



Rewilding

Rewilding is the process of humans returning **habitats** back to their original wild conditions. Wild areas are legally protected and sometimes key animal and plant species are reintroduced.



Ponds

Even small projects, such as building a pond, can largely increase the levels of **biodiversity** in an area.

