

Our Plastic Planet

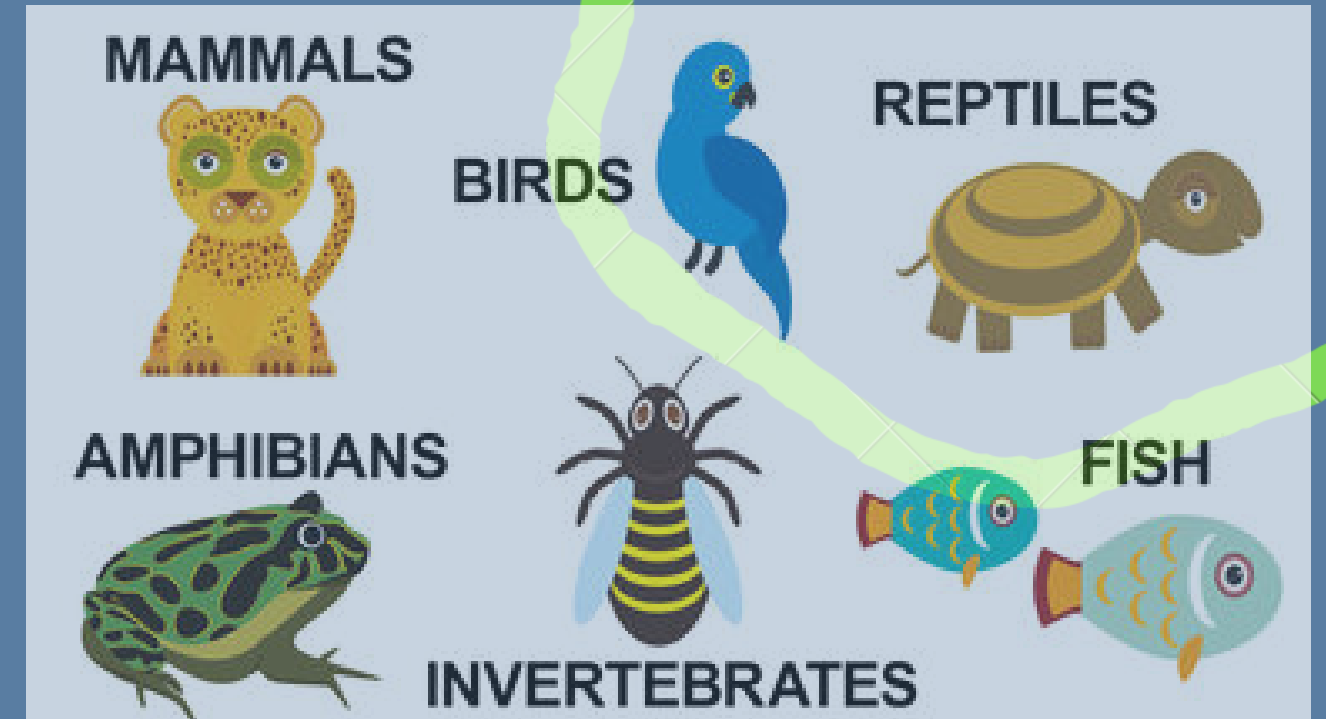
HOW ARE ANIMAL HABITATS AFFECTED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY?

What I already know from previous years -

Animals can be defined and placed into 5 different categories - mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds.
Animals are either carnivores (only eat meat), herbivore (only eat plants) or omnivores (eat both meat and plants).
Animals obtain food from other animals or plants and this can be shown in a food chain.
Animals live in a chosen habitat which provides for their needs.

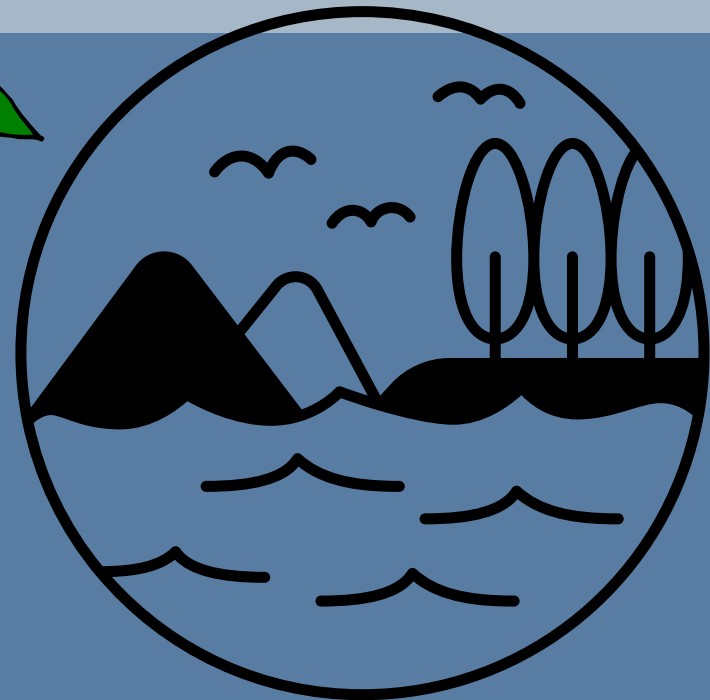
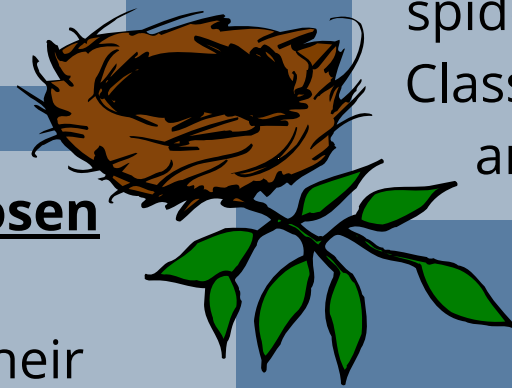
How can we classify different animals?

Animals who have a backbone are known as vertebrates. Vertebrates can be grouped into 5 different categories - mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians.
Animals who do not have a backbone are known as invertebrates. Invertebrates can be grouped into categories including - snails and slugs, worms, spiders, crustaceans, jellyfish, urchins and insects. Classification keys are used to help group, identify and name living things in their environment.



How does an animal adapt to its chosen habitat?

Animals select a habitat based upon their chosen food source and own physical features, such as - feathers, fur coats or fins.
This habitat needs to supply enough food to keep the animal alive and allow it to reproduce offspring (have young).
Over time, species may adapt to better suit their environment. This is called adaptation.



What effect would changes in habitat have upon animals?

If an animal chooses a habitat which then changes, the animal may not be able to find enough food, suitable shelter or a safe place to reproduce offspring (have young).
Changes in the habitat could include the destruction of the environment, pollution, loss of food sources, removal of trees (deforestation), changes in climate.
This could mean the animal may not survive.

Vocabulary

Habitat - A place where an animal lives.

Vertebrate - An animal with a backbone.

Invertebrate - An animal without a backbone.

Producer - A green plant which makes its food using sunlight - EG - algae, grass.

Consumer - Animals which get their energy from eating other plants and animals.

Predator - An organism that eats other animals.

Prey - An animal that is hunted for food.

Food chain - The order in which living things depend on each other for food. Most food chains start with a producer.

Mammal - Female mammals give birth to live babies. EG - humans, dogs, whales.

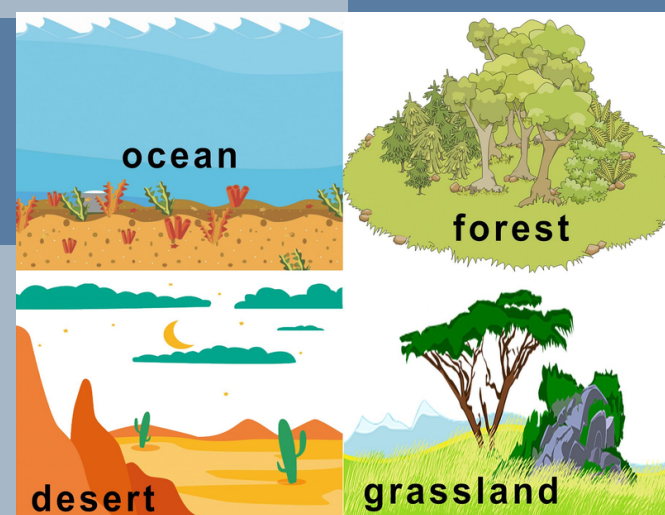
Fish - Cold-blooded animal with scales and fins. Lives in the water. EG - eel.

Amphibian - Animals that can live both on land and in water. EG - frogs.

Reptile - Cold-blooded animals with hard scales which lay eggs. EG - lizard, snake.

Bird - Has a body covered with feathers and lays eggs. EG - swan.

Crustacean - An animal with a hard shell and several pairs of legs. EG - crab.



Where does an animal find its source of food?

Animals get their energy from the food they eat. Animals depend on other living things for food. Some animals eat plants (herbivores) while others eat other animals (carnivores). This passing of energy from the sun to plants to animals to other animals is called a food chain. All food chains start with a producer (usually a green plant). Animals then eat the producer and are known as the consumer.

The animal which is hunting and eating another is known as the predator.

The animal which is being hunted is known as the prey.

