

Nova's Guide to Amazing Habitats

Learning objective: To recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways and explore how environmental changes can pose dangers to specific habitats.

Read the information below about habitats, then answer the questions to test your scientific knowledge. Remember to think like a scientist!

A habitat is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. It provides everything a creature needs to survive: food, water, shelter, and space. Nova the owl knows that different animals have special adaptations to help them live in their specific habitats. For example, a polar bear has thick fur to stay warm in the Arctic, while a cactus stores water in its stem to survive in a hot, dry desert. Habitats are very delicate. When humans change the environment—like cutting down forests or polluting water—it can make it difficult for animals to find what they need. Some habitats become dangerous for the creatures living there, making them 'endangered'. By learning about these homes, we can help protect the amazing variety of life on Earth.

Word bank: Environment · Habitat · Adaptation · Ecosystem · Endangered · Organism

1. Using the passage, list three things a habitat must provide for an animal to survive. (3 marks)

2. Explain what an 'adaptation' is in your own words using an example from the text. (2 marks)

3. Why does Nova suggest that human activity can be a problem for certain habitats? (2 marks)

4. Think of a local habitat you have visited (such as a park, a pond, or a garden). Name one animal that lives there and one way it is adapted to that place. (2 marks)

5. If a forest was cleared to build a new road, what might happen to the creatures that lived there? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Mini-Habitat' you might find in your own school playground. Include at least two living things and label how they use their environment.



Extension challenge: Research one animal that is currently endangered. Create a 'Fact File' explaining why its habitat is changing and one way humans could help protect it.