

Exploring Habitats with Nova the Owl

Learning objective: To identify and describe how different animals are suited to their environment and how habitats provide for their basic needs.

Read the passage about Nova's nighttime observations and answer the questions below. Think carefully about how each animal survives in its home.

Nova the owl loves to fly through the woods at night. She sees a hedgehog scurrying through the fallen leaves; it has sharp spines to protect itself from predators. Nearby, a pond sits quietly. Inside, a frog is camouflaged against the green lily pads, waiting to catch a tasty insect. Nova watches from a tall oak tree, which provides her with a safe place to rest during the day. She knows that every creature has a special home called a habitat. A habitat gives animals the food, water, and shelter they need to stay healthy and safe. If an animal's environment changes, it must find a new way to survive.

Word bank: habitat · adaptation · environment · shelter · predator · prey · nocturnal

1. What are the three things that a habitat must provide for an animal to survive? (3 marks)

2. Why is the hedgehog's ability to curl into a ball with sharp spines a useful adaptation for its habitat? (2 marks)

3. Nova is a nocturnal animal. Based on the passage, what do you think 'nocturnal' means? (1 mark)

4. Name one animal from the passage and explain one way it is suited to its environment. (2 marks)

5. If a pond dried up during a hot summer, what might happen to the frog? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of your favourite animal in its natural habitat. Include at least two things in your drawing that help the animal find food or stay safe.



Extension challenge: Imagine a new animal that lives in a freezing cold environment. Write three sentences describing two body parts it has that help it survive in the snow.