

Living things and their habitats

What I should already know

- **FS-** Know similarities/differences between living things.
- **Year 1-** Naming a variety of common living animals such as fish, reptiles, birds and mammals. Identifying and labelling parts of the human body and the associated senses.

Investigate!

- Carefully observe a microhabitat (forest school) and sketch the plants you find. Can you find any evidence of plants being eaten? What other living things can you see? Compare two different habitats and explain what animals and plants can be found there.
- Go on a minibeast hunt. What minibeasts can you find? Why can they survive in their habitat?
- Compare two different microhabitats. What do you notice about the minibeasts that live in each one? Why do you think that is?
- Create simple food chains that begin with a plant.
- Discuss what would happen if one of those living things in a food chain did not exist.

Key Vocabulary

Habitat	A habitat is the natural place something lives. A habitat provides living things with everything they need to survive, such as food, shelter and water.
Microhabitat	A microhabitat is a very small habitat in places like under a rock, under leaves or on a branch.
Mini-beasts	Minibeasts are small creatures like worms, snails, insects and spiders. Minibeasts live in microhabitats.
Food chain	A food chain shows how each animal gets its food. Food chains are one of the ways that living things depend on each other to stay alive.
Food sources	This is the place a living thing's food comes from.
Energy	What all living things need to survive. Plants use the sun's energy to produce their own energy.
Transfer	The way that energy is passed between organisms through a food chain.
Predator	An animal that hunts and eats other animals.

Key knowledge

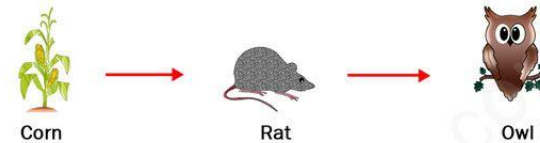
- A habitat is a place where living things, such as animals and plants, can find all of the things they need to survive. This includes food, water, air, space to move and grow and some shelter.
- Some habitats are large, like the ocean, and some are very small, such as under a log.
- Some habitats in our local area include the river and woodlands. Other habitats include the coast and the forest.
- Minibeasts that can be found there include ants, centipedes, millipedes, and butterflies and they help to keep the microhabitat healthy.
- Minibeasts are able to survive in their habitats because they can find the things they need to survive there, such as food and water. For example, caterpillars can survive on leaves as they give them food.
- Energy passes from one animal to another as they eat plants or one another. This flow of energy from one living thing to another is called a food chain.
- Within a food chain, plants create their own energy by making their own food using sunlight, soil, and other elements (**producers**) and animals use the energy (**consumers**).

Key questions

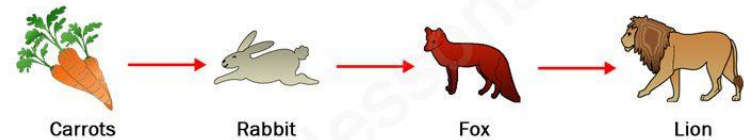
What do all living things need to survive?

How do animals and plants depend on each other?

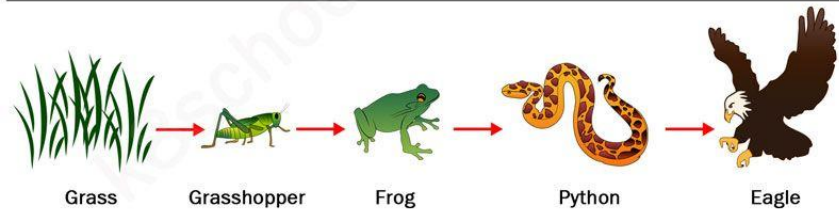
Food Chains



A three linked food chain



A four linked food chain



A five linked food chain