

Coral reefs: They are called the Rain Forest of Oceans because they have so much aquatic flora and fauna. Coral reefs form an aquatic ecosystem. Calcium carbonate binds reef-forming coral polyps. Stony corals with clumped polyps dominate coral reefs.

Coastal Environment: When land meets water, coastal ecosystems form. These ecosystems have a unique structure, variety, and energy flow. Plants and algae dominate the coastal bottom. Fauna includes insects, snails, fish, crabs, shrimp, and lobsters.

Freshwater ecosphere: This aquatic ecosystem covers less than 1% of the earth's surface and includes wetlands, lentic, and lotic ecosystems.

Wetlands: These marshy areas are often flooded and harbor flora and fauna. Water lilies, marshes, swamps, Northern Pikes, dragonflies, Green Heron, etc. live in wetlands.

Lentic ecosystems: Floating and rooted plants, algae, and invertebrates live in ponds and lakes. Lentic ecosystems include lakes and ponds. In these habitats, algae, rooted and floating-leaf plants, and crustaceans live.

Lotic ecosystems: These aquatic ecosystems have fast-flowing, one-way water. They attract insects like beetles, mayflies, and stoneflies. River dolphins, beavers, otters, eel, minnow, and trout live there.

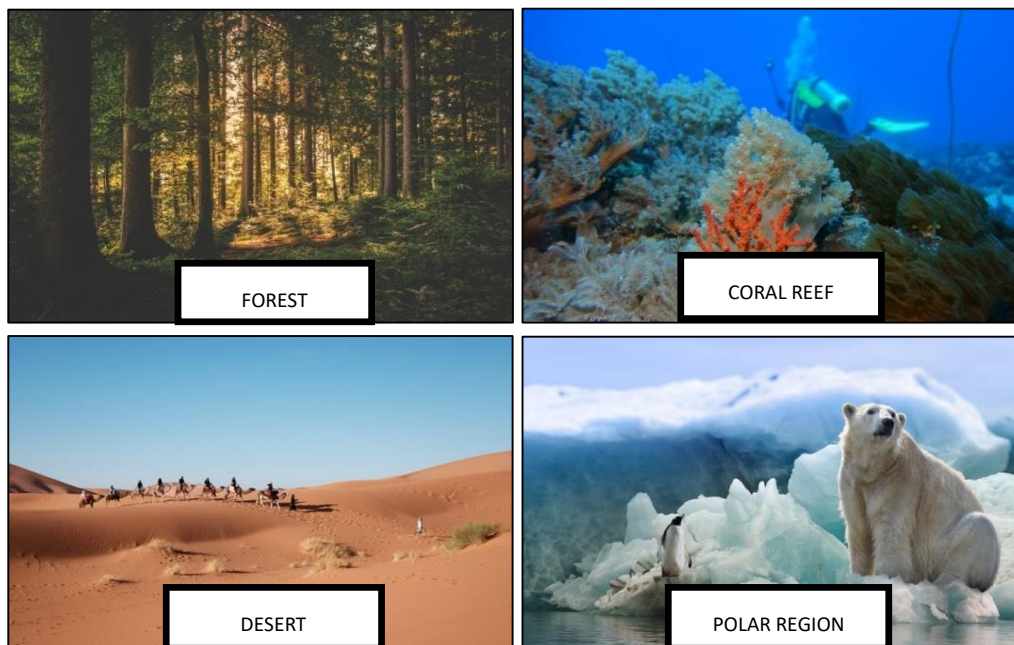


Fig. 2. 1 Habitat in different systems

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