

B2. Intro to Habitats

Exploring Habitats: Homes for Plants and Animals

Habitats are amazing places where plants and animals live and interact with each other and their surroundings. In habitats, every living thing has a role to play, creating a delicate balance that supports life. Let's dive into the fascinating world of habitats and discover the important roles of plants and animals, as well as the influence of nature and humans on these precious environments.

What is a Habitat?

A habitat is a natural home where living things, such as plants and animals, can be found. It provides everything an organism needs to survive, including food, water, shelter, and space.

Roles of Plants in Habitats

Plants play a crucial role in habitats. They use sunlight, water, and nutrients from the soil to make food through a process called photosynthesis. Plants also provide shelter, shade, and oxygen for animals. Some plants even serve as food sources for herbivores.

Roles of Animals in Habitats

Animals also have important roles in habitats. Herbivores, like deer and rabbits, eat plants and help control their growth. Carnivores, such as lions and wolves, keep the population of herbivores in check. Some animals, like bees and butterflies, pollinate flowers, ensuring the reproduction of plants.

Interactions in Habitats




In habitats, plants and animals depend on each other in various ways. Plants provide food and shelter for animals, while animals help pollinate plants and disperse their seeds. These interactions form intricate food chains and webs, creating a harmonious balance.

Natural Influences on Habitats

Nature has a significant impact on habitats. Factors like climate, temperature, rainfall, and seasons shape the characteristics of different habitats. For example, the hot and dry desert habitat is influenced by minimal rainfall and extreme temperatures.

Human Influences on Habitats

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Carnivore	Herbivore	Omnivore
<p>A carnivore is an animal that eats other animals.</p> <p>Here are some examples:</p> 	<p>A herbivore is an animal that eats plants.</p> <p>Here are some examples:</p> 	<p>An omnivore is an animal that eats both plants and other animals.</p> <p>Here are some examples:</p> 

Can you think of any more examples of animals that are **carnivores**, **herbivores** or **omnivores**?

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Humans also have an impact on habitats. Sometimes, people change habitats to meet their needs. Deforestation, pollution, and habitat destruction can disrupt the delicate balance of ecosystems. However, humans can also take steps to protect and preserve habitats, ensuring the survival of plants and animals.

Forest Habitats: A World of Trees

Forest habitats are homes to many plants and animals. Tall trees provide shelter for birds and mammals, while the forest floor is inhabited by insects, reptiles, and small mammals. Forests are important for maintaining biodiversity and producing oxygen.

Aquatic Habitats: Life Beneath the Water

Aquatic habitats, such as oceans, lakes, and rivers, support a wide range of plants and animals. From colorful coral reefs to deep-sea creatures, aquatic habitats are filled with fascinating life forms adapted to living in water.

Grassland Habitats: Wide Open Spaces

Grasslands are habitats characterized by vast areas covered in grass. They support grazing animals like zebras and bison. Grasslands are also home to burrowing animals like prairie dogs and ground squirrels.

Desert Habitats: Surviving in Extreme Conditions

Deserts are habitats with very little rainfall and extreme temperatures. Desert plants, like cacti, have adaptations to store water, while animals, like camels and snakes, have specialized ways to conserve water. Desert habitats are unique and full of resilient life forms.

Let's test your knowledge!

1. What is a habitat?
 - A) A natural home where living things can be found
 - B) A man-made shelter for animals
 - C) A place where plants grow
 - D) A special type of food for animals
2. What is one role of plants in habitats?
 - A) Making food through photosynthesis
 - B) Hunting for prey
 - C) Building nests for birds
 - D) Controlling the population of other plants
3. How do animals help plants in habitats?
 - A) By providing shade and shelter
 - B) By making food through photosynthesis
 - C) By pollinating flowers and dispersing seeds
 - D) By controlling the weather in the habitat

4. What are some natural influences on habitats?
 - A) Human activities
 - B) Pollution and deforestation
 - C) Climate, temperature, and rainfall
 - D) Food chains and webs
5. What is one way humans can positively influence habitats?
 - A) By cutting down trees
 - B) By building more houses and roads
 - C) By protecting and preserving habitats
 - D) By introducing new species to habitats
6. Which habitat is characterized by tall trees and is home to many animals?
 - A) Desert
 - B) Grassland
 - C) Forest
 - D) Ocean
7. Which habitat is filled with water and supports marine life?
 - A) Forest
 - B) Desert
 - C) Grassland
 - D) Aquatic
8. What is a special adaptation of desert plants to survive in extreme conditions?
 - A) Storing water
 - B) Growing tall and broad leaves
 - C) Hibernating during hot seasons
 - D) Flying long distances for food
9. Which type of habitat is characterized by vast areas covered in grass and supports grazing animals?
 - A) Desert
 - B) Forest
 - C) Grassland
 - D) Ocean
10. How do animals help control the population of plants in habitats?
 - A) By pollinating flowers
 - B) By dispersing seeds
 - C) By eating plants
 - D) By providing shade for plants

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS:

1. A) A natural home where living things can be found
 - A habitat is a natural home where plants and animals live and interact with each other.
2. A) Making food through photosynthesis
 - One role of plants in habitats is to make food through photosynthesis, using sunlight, water, and nutrients from the soil.
3. C) By pollinating flowers and dispersing seeds
 - Animals help plants in habitats by pollinating flowers, transferring pollen between flowers, and dispersing seeds to different areas.
4. C) Climate, temperature, and rainfall
 - Natural influences on habitats include factors like climate, temperature, and rainfall, which shape the characteristics of different habitats.
5. C) By protecting and preserving habitats
 - Humans can positively influence habitats by taking steps to protect and preserve them, ensuring the survival of plants and animals.
6. C) Forest
 - Forest habitats are characterized by tall trees and are home to many plants and animals.
7. D) Aquatic
 - Aquatic habitats, such as oceans, lakes, and rivers, are filled with water and support marine life.
8. A) Storing water
 - Desert plants have adaptations to store water, helping them survive in the extreme conditions of deserts.
9. C) Grassland
 - Grassland habitats are characterized by vast areas covered in grass and support grazing animals.
10. C) By eating plants
 - Animals help control the population of plants in habitats by eating them, which helps regulate plant growth and maintain balance in ecosystems.