



## What is our environment?

The environment is everything around us, that includes living and non-living things, and also the conditions we live in.

All living things need food, water and shelter to live, and the environment they live in gives them everything they need to survive.



Any changes to an environment will affect the living things. Some of these changes are natural. These could be weather conditions, like storms or heatwaves; Or natural disasters such as earth quakes and floods.

For example, if there are intense heatwaves this could cause a wildfire in a forest, which would mean that the deer who live there don't have any food, water or shelter to survive.

In 2023, there were 398 natural disaster events recorded worldwide! (Salas, 2024)

Humans also make changes to the environment, and many of these changes are harmful to life on Earth. All around the world, human activities have resulted in water and air pollution. Humans have also destroyed the environments of many animals. Our need for materials such as wood, means many animals living in the forests have no environment left; and our rubbish such as plastic often ends up in the ocean, making it unsafe for the creatures who live there. Scientists also believe that peoples use of coal and oil to make energy has led to a condition called global warming, this is a rise in the temperature of the Earth's surface.

## What can we do to help?

Today many people are trying to protect the environment. We can help by protecting areas of land that animals need to survive, recycling and disposing of our rubbish correctly, planting more trees, and even turning off lights and making sure we aren't wasting electricity!



Salas, E. B. (2024). *Global number of natural disasters events 2000-2023*. Retrieved from Statista: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/510959/number-of-natural-disasters-events-globally/>