Write the Notes in your Notebook or Exercise Book

Science

Animal Habitats

Animals live everywhere on the earth. The place where an animal lives or is found naturally is called its habitat.

There are five main habitats on the earth. These are forest, desert, polar region, ocean and fresh water.

Forest Habitat

A forest is a vast region that is covered densely by trees and different varieties of plants. It provides shelter to animals like lion, tiger, deer, fox, monkeys, hare, rat, rhinoceros and bear which live on land and trees. It also gives shelter to animals like hare, tortoise, and snake that live in burrows. Small animals and insects are also found in a forest.

Desert Habitat

A desert is a sandy and dry region as it receives very little rainfall. It is usually hot during the day and cold at night. Due to this reason, the animals found here have special features that help them to live in such harsh conditions.

Many desert animals have a thick skin that helps them to avoid water loss through sweating. Many

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other hide in their burrows to escape the heat.

Some animals can even store water and food in their body. Some examples of desert animals are camel, scorpion, bandicoot, Oryx, snakes, hedgehog and desert tortoise.

Polar Region Habitat

The regions near the North and South poles on the earth are called polar-regions. The north-pole is named Arctic and the south pole is known as Antarctica. They are always covered with ice and snow. Similarly, the high altitude mountains are also covered with snow all round the year.

Many animals live in groups to protect themselves from the cold. Penguins, polar bears, seal, walrus, arctic hare and arctic fox are some examples of animals found in polar region. The animals found here have developed special features to cope with such cold weather. Their bodies are covered with fur. Most of the animals have thick layers of fat beneath the fur which keeps them warm. Arctic hare and Arctic fox are some examples of animals found in polar region.

Ocean Habitat

An ocean is a vast, continuous body of saline (salty) water. It is the largest habitat on the earth. A large variety of animals are found here. Some of them are whale, dolphin, seal, turtle, seahorse and

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octopus. These animals are well-adapted to live in salty water.

Fresh Water Habitat

Fresh water is naturally occurring water on the earth's surface. It contains minimal quantities (small amounts) of dissolved salts. Some examples of fresh water habitat are ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, etc. This kind of habitat gives shelter to numerous animals like fish, frog, salamander, toad, duck, swan, flamingo, crane and a number of insects.

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