

Read About Habitats

HABITATS DEFINITION

A habitat is the place where living things naturally live and grow. Habitats provide them with the food, water and shelter they need to live.

To better understand habitats...

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

There are many different habitats on Earth.

Some different habitats are jungles, deserts, forests, the Arctic and rivers. Each of these different habitats are homes to many different plants and animals.



A habitat must meet the needs of animals that live there.

A three-banded armadillo needs to eat bugs and live in a warm place. A jungle is a good habitat for this animal because it meets the armadillo's needs.

Animals have adaptations that help them survive.

The fennec fox has several adaptations that help it survive in a desert habitat. It has big ears that keep it cool. It also has fur on its feet to protect them from the hot sand.



Some animals need a habitat with lots of water.

American alligators spend most of their time in the water. They have adaptations, such as strong tails for swimming, that help them to survive in the water.

Sloths live in the jungle up in trees.

Sloths make their home in a jungle habitat. The jungle meets the needs of the sloth because they eat lots of leaves and climb in the trees. A jungle has many trees.



HABITATS VOCABULARY

Habitat

The place an animal naturally lives and grows.

Forest

A habitat that has many trees.

Desert

A dry and hot habitat. Deserts get very little rain and are often covered in sand.

Arctic

A cold habitat where almost everything is frozen. Most of the Arctic has snow and ice on the ground.

Jungle

A warm habitat with lots of trees. Jungles get a lot of rain which helps many trees grow. Jungles have even more trees and plants than a forest.

Needs

Things a living thing must have to survive.

HABITATS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are some clues that an armadillo's habitat is a jungle?

The three-banded armadillo likes to dig in the ground to find bugs and there are a lot of bugs in the jungle. It has predators like a jaguar which are found in the jungle. It also likes to live in places that are very warm.

What are some special adaptations that a fennec fox has?

The fennec fox has big ears to keep it cool. It also has fur on its feet to keep them from getting too hot on the desert surface.

What are some adaptations of the American alligator that help it survive?

American alligators have powerful tails that help them swim. They also have eyes on the tops of their heads that help them see out of the water. Their webbed feet also help them swim.

Why does a sloth have such curvy fingernails?

A sloth's curvy fingernails help it to hang in the trees for long periods of time.

What could happen if an animal was not finding food in its habitat?

The animal could die. The animal could also try to move to another habitat. Remember that animals can only live in a habitat where their needs are met.

How are your needs met for survival?

People can get food from the store and water from the sink or a water fountain. You have shelter, such as a house or apartment.
