Living Things and their Habitats

Lesson 2: Local Living Things - What are they?

LI: To ask questions about local habitats and to carefully observe and record the living things in the local area.

A **habitat** is a home environment for plants and animals or other organisms. A habitat is made up of 4 things an animal needs: food, water, shelter and space. Examples of habitats include: desert, meadow, woodland, grassland, forest, seashore and ocean. These links tell you a bit more. You don't have to watch all of them!

https://youtu.be/ZrSWYE37MJs

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx882hv/resources/1

https://www.pbs.org/video/habitat-habitat-basics-buxq6x/

https://www.bwis.org.uk/habitats-and-microhabitats/

A **micro-habitat** is a very specific, small home environment for plants, animals and insects. Examples include: ponds, individual trees, under a stone or a pile of logs. Here is an example of a micro-habitat: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mXEsvrJUnU https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zf6mhyc

Can you name any habitats near your house? They can be really small (micro habitats). e.g. garden bed, under the tree, on the playground, a pond or wild flower area, under a log, in the compost heap. Has this habitat always looked like this? How does the habitat change during the different seasons?

For this session we would like you to go outside to collect information about the living things, particularly invertebrates (creatures without a backbone such as insects, worms, etc.) and plants present within the habitat you have chosen to visit. You can record your findings on a record sheet.

Your parents might have an app on their phone which can help identify plants. These links have spotter sheets to help name some of the things you might find:

http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/2015/09/leaf-id/ - Leaf identification PDF;

http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf creepy crawly spotter sheet.pdf

http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf minibeast hunt.pdf



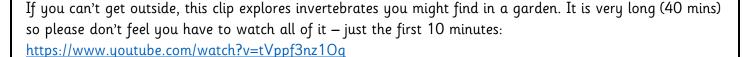
Qualities of a Good Observer or Collector

Search carefully, disturbing the surroundings as little as possible.

Handle only a few, but look at many living things.

Replace overturned logs and stones.

Do not pick wild flowers; draw them or photograph instead.



https://youtu.be/2fmtIToiGjI is also quite useful.



Lesson 2 - Observation Sheet

What have you found? Can you name it?	Habitat - Where did you find it? Add details about the habitat conditions -eg shady, light, damp, dry.	What does it look like? Draw a sketch, jot down details like how many legs or wings, shape of the leaf. You could take a photo.



