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Habitats and Homes

A habitat is the area or natural environment where an animal or plant lives. The perfect habitat for any living thing has exactly what the animal or plant needs to live well and thrive. This means the right soil, water, food and light. The weather and temperature have to be just right and it needs to be safe.

To *thrive* means to grow and be healthy.

Animals make their homes in their habitats. An animal's home is the house or structure where it lives.

Badgers

Habitat

The European badger can be found all over Europe but the largest populations are found in Britain and Ireland. Badgers make their homes in a variety of different habitats including woods, hedgerows, open fields and moorland. They choose their habitat depending on how much food is available there. A habitat with lots of earthworms is particularly important to badgers!

Home

Once a suitable habitat has been selected, badgers will build their home there. A badger's home is called a sett. It is a network of underground tunnels. Badgers dig these tunnels using their strong claws. Badgers live in big groups so they all work together to build the setts.

Did you know?

Badgers are very clean animals so they have a separate area in their setts to use as a toilet!

Owl

Habitat

Owls can live in lots of different types of habitat but they are most commonly found in wooded areas. Wooded areas provide owls with lots of places to hide from predators, and a good food supply. Owls eat mice, small birds, reptiles and insects.



Home

Although owls perch high in tree branches to spot their prey, they do not always make their homes high up. They make their nests in tree trunks, hollowed out logs or even barns.

Did you know?

Owls take over nests that other birds have left behind. They never make their own nests!

Beavers**Habitat**

Beavers are very clever creatures. This is because they are able to make almost any environment into a suitable habitat. An ideal habitat for a beaver is a river bank but this is not always possible because the water is constantly flowing in freshwater streams. So beavers build dams to create their own habitats. They use their strong, powerful teeth and jaws to gnaw trees. Then they use huge logs to block streams and transform fields and forests into ponds. All beavers need water to survive.

Forest Fact!

Beavers do not just use trees to build dams, they also eat them. Beavers eat the leaves, roots and bark from trees.

**Home**

A beaver's home is called a lodge. These lodges are built just above water. They are made using sticks, grasses and moss to form the structure. The beavers then cover this with mud.

Did you know?

Badgers, owls and beavers are all nocturnal. This means they sleep during the day and hunt at night.



Name _____

Class _____

1 Draw a line to match the animals to their homes. [1]

Animals	Homes
badgers	tree trunks, hollowed out logs or barns
beavers	a sett
owls	a lodge

Make sure you've read about all three types of animal.



2 What are **four** types of habitat that badgers make their homes in? [1]

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

3 Why can owls usually be found in wooded areas? Tick **two** boxes. [2]

There are lots of places to hide from predators.

They like tree trunks.

They eat leaves.

There is a good food supply.

4 Find and **copy one** word that means that animals sleep during the day and hunt at night. [1]

Read the *Did you know?* boxes carefully.





Name _____

Class _____

1 'The perfect habitat for any living thing has exactly what the animal or plant needs to live well and thrive.'

Which of the below is closest in meaning to *thrive*?

Tick **one** box. [1]

be safe

grow and succeed

keep warm

be comfortable

2 According to the text, what makes for a perfect habitat? List **three** things that contribute to that perfect habitat. [3]

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Make sure you re-read the first paragraph very carefully.



3 Badgers are clean animals. What evidence does the text provide for this? [1]

4 According to the text, which of these things do owls eat? Tick **two** boxes. [2]

bark

mice

water

small reptiles



Name _____

Class _____

1 a) What is a habitat? [1]

b) What is a home? [1]

2 Which of these sentences about a badger's home are true, and which are false? Mark each statement as true or false. [2]

	True	False
It may last hundreds of years.		
It is far from any food.		
It is only big enough for one badger.		
It has a toilet area.		

3 Look at the paragraph that starts with *Beavers are very clever.* Find and copy one word that means *to change*. [1]

4 a) Why is it difficult for a beaver to build its home by a freshwater stream. [1]

Make sure you answer both parts of the question in detail.

b) How do beavers do this? [1]



Answers: Habitats and Homes

LEVEL: Towards	
<p>P Draw a line to match the animals to their homes. [1]</p> <p>Answer: badger – a sett beavers – a lodge owls – tree trunks, hollowed out logs or barns</p>	
Content domain reference	2b
Comprehension strategies	Retrieving and recording information; Clarifying
<p>P What are the four types of habitat that badgers make their homes in? [1]</p> <p>Answer: Award one point for all four of the following: woods; hedgerows; open fields; moorland</p>	
Content domain reference	2b
Comprehension strategies	Retrieving and recording information; Recall
<p>P Why can owls usually be found in wooded areas? Tick two boxes. [2]</p> <p>Answer: There are lots of places to hide from predators.; There is a good food supply.</p>	
Content domain reference	2b
Comprehension strategies	Retrieving and recording information; Clarifying
<p>P Find and copy one word that means that animals sleep during the day and hunt at night. [1]</p> <p>Answer: nocturnal</p>	
Content domain reference	2a
Comprehension strategies	Giving meaning of words in context
LEVEL: Securing	
<p>P Which is closest in meaning to <i>thrive</i>? Tick one box [1]</p> <p>Answer: grow and succeed</p>	
Content domain reference	2a
Comprehension strategies	Giving meaning of words in context
<p>P According to the text, what makes for a perfect habitat? List three things that contribute to that perfect habitat. [3]</p> <p>Answer: Award up to three marks for each answer similar to: safety; weather/temperature just right; proper soil; water; food; light</p>	
Content domain reference	2b
Comprehension strategies	Retrieving and recording information; Recall
<p>P Badgers are clean animals. What evidence does the text provide for this? [1]</p> <p>Answer: Award one mark for both the answer and the explanation: clean <i>Evidence:</i> They have a separate area to use as a toilet.</p>	
Content domain reference	2b
Comprehension strategies	Retrieving and recording information; Making connections
<p>P According to the text, which of these things do owls eat? Tick two boxes. [2]</p> <p>Answer: mice; small reptiles</p>	
Content domain reference	2b
Comprehension strategies	Retrieving and recording information; Clarifying

LEVEL: Deeper	
<p>P a) What is a habitat? [1] b) What is a home? [1]</p>	
<p>Answer: a) A habitat is the specific place where an animal or plant lives. b) A home is the structure in which an animal lives. <i>Award one mark for each answer.</i></p>	
Content domain reference	2b
Comprehension strategies	Retrieving and recording information; Recall
<p>P Which of these sentences about a badger's home are true, and which are false? [2]</p>	
<p>Answer: False; False; False; True <i>Award one mark for two correct answers; two marks for three correct answers</i></p>	
Content domain reference	2b/2d
Comprehension strategies	Retrieving and recording information; Making inferences
<p>P Look at the paragraph that starts with <i>Beavers are very clever</i> Find and copy one word that means <i>to change</i>. [1]</p>	
<p>Answer: transform</p>	
Content domain reference	2a
Comprehension strategies	Giving the meaning of words in context
<p>P a) Why is it difficult for a beaver to build its home by a freshwater stream. [1] b) How do beavers do this? [1]</p>	
<p>Answer: a) The water is constantly moving/flowing. b) Beavers build a dam.; The dam slows the water down. <i>Award one mark for each answer.</i></p>	
Content domain reference	2b/d
Comprehension strategies	Retrieving and recording information; Making inferences



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