

Animals in Their Environments

Hidden Beast Den with Wildling

Learning target

Use evidence to explain how animals fit into an environment.



Before you begin

Use the reference page and discussion prompts on their own, or open the optional browser adventure. No earlier lesson or physical kit is required.

For online play: use an internet-connected current browser with local storage enabled. Read the three-part Gemling briefing, answer the quick check, and apply the evidence at three checkpoints. Retry feedback supports review; results are not a secure test or gradebook.

Use for teacher-led review, science centers or partner practice. Independent readers may need support with the vocabulary below. The design target is grades 3-5; choose support based on the learner.

Vocabulary and concepts to discuss

Diversity; habitat fit; interactions; environmental change

Open Hidden Beast Den - direct lesson link

Scan the QR code or use the clickable link. This guide is usable offline; the adventure runs on an external educational website.



Animals in Their Environments - key ideas

1. The first clues

An animal's habitat must support its needs. Food, water, shelter and space interact with body structures and behavior.

2. How the clues connect

Environmental change can alter available resources. A habitat that works now may become less suitable if a needed resource disappears.

3. Our evidence record

Our animal record requires shallow water and aquatic prey. Habitat A has both; Habitat B has dry bare ground. Losing the shallow water would affect the animal's food and living conditions.

Keep the science accurate

Use a few animal groups and evidence. Avoid requiring a full taxonomy or implying every animal has identical senses or parental care.

Apply the evidence

Use a specific observation from this lesson to explain one choice. Point to a clue, then connect that clue to a scientific idea.

Curriculum reference: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/dci-arrangement/4-Is1-molecules-organisms-structures-and-processes>

Talk through the evidence

1. Which habitat fits the supplied needs?

Expected answer: Habitat A

Reasoning: An animal's habitat must support its needs. Food, water, shelter and space interact with body structures and behavior.

2. What change would matter here?

Expected answer: Loss of shallow water

Reasoning: Environmental change can alter available resources. A habitat that works now may become less suitable if a needed resource disappears.

3. Why use more than one habitat clue?

Expected answer: Animals have several connected needs

Reasoning: An animal's habitat must support its needs. Food, water, shelter and space interact with body structures and behavior.

4. Does one suitable habitat prove all animals can live there?

Expected answer: No

Reasoning: Environmental change can alter available resources. A habitat that works now may become less suitable if a needed resource disappears.

Guide the discussion

Ask learners to name the evidence that supports their answer. If an answer differs, revisit the matching key idea on page 2 and invite a revised explanation.

Online rewards: this lesson grants one fixed digital Expedition Discovery. Five saved digital Gemling friends become available only after all six distinct subject lessons are complete, in any order. Digital rewards do not establish physical ownership.