

What Makes a Habitat

Homefinder Camp with Nookling

Learning target

Explain a habitat as more than an animal's sleeping place.



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

Food; water; air; shelter; space; conditions

Open Homefinder Camp - 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.



What Makes a Habitat - key ideas

1. The first clues

A habitat is the place and conditions in which an organism lives. It includes access to food, water, air, shelter and space, not only a nest.

2. How the clues connect

Different organisms need different combinations of conditions. A place that suits one animal may not suit another.

3. Our evidence record

Our record describes an animal needing insects, fresh water and protected resting spaces. A decorative empty nest alone does not meet the whole list; the nearby habitat must supply the rest.

Keep the science accurate

A habitat includes food, water, air and space, not only a nest. Use representative habitats without memorizing every biome.

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/3-Is4-biological-evolution-unity-and-diversity>

Talk through the evidence

1. Is a habitat only a nest?

Expected answer: No

Reasoning: A habitat is the place and conditions in which an organism lives. It includes access to food, water, air, shelter and space, not only a nest.

2. What should we compare with a proposed habitat?

Expected answer: The organism's full needs

Reasoning: A habitat is the place and conditions in which an organism lives. It includes access to food, water, air, shelter and space, not only a nest.

3. What is missing from an empty nest alone?

Expected answer: Evidence of food and water access

Reasoning: A habitat is the place and conditions in which an organism lives. It includes access to food, water, air, shelter and space, not only a nest.

4. Can all organisms use identical habitats?

Expected answer: No

Reasoning: Different organisms need different combinations of conditions. A place that suits one animal may not suit another.

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.