

Homes & Microhabitats

Burrow Borough with Nookling

Learning target

Compare smaller habitats within a larger area.



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

Burrows; logs; soil; shade and moisture; small-scale differences

Open Burrow Borough - 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.



Homes & Microhabitats - key ideas

1. The first clues

Microhabitats are small areas with particular conditions. The space beneath a log may be cooler, darker and moister than nearby open ground.

2. How the clues connect

Burrows, leaf litter and shaded soil can offer different shelters and resources within one larger habitat.

3. Our evidence record

Our needs card describes an animal requiring moisture and shade. Site A is damp beneath a log; Site B is dry sunlit bare ground. A matches the stated conditions better.

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. What is a microhabitat?

Expected answer: A small area with particular conditions

Reasoning: Microhabitats are small areas with particular conditions. The space beneath a log may be cooler, darker and moister than nearby open ground.

2. Which site fits the card?

Expected answer: Site A

Reasoning: Our needs card describes an animal requiring moisture and shade. Site A is damp beneath a log; Site B is dry sunlit bare ground. A matches the stated conditions better.

3. Why can nearby places support different organisms?

Expected answer: Their local conditions differ

Reasoning: Microhabitats are small areas with particular conditions. The space beneath a log may be cooler, darker and moister than nearby open ground.

4. Which evidence matters here?

Expected answer: Moisture and shade

Reasoning: Our needs card describes an animal requiring moisture and shade. Site A is damp beneath a log; Site B is dry sunlit bare ground. A matches the stated conditions better.

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.