

What is a habitat?

Scientists are inquisitive and they want to find out more. One of the best ways to find out more is to ask questions such as: “What is a habitat?”

If you are learning French you may be able to say “J’habite County Durham” (I live in County Durham), from this we can work out that the word ‘habitat’ has something to do with where something may live, its home, which is right... but there is more to it than that.

Why do you live where you do? It is your home because it gives you vital things that are necessary for you to live well – and it is the same for the plants and animals at the habitats you will visit.

- Can you list the things that you really need in your habitat?
- Are there any similarities between your list and the things that an animal may need to live well?

Summary:

A habitat provides all the things that organisms (living things) need to live. There are many different types of habitats that can contain very different types of organisms. If a plant or animal does well in their habitat we say they are **adapted** to live in that habitat.

Are you adapted to live in your habitat – could you live in a different habitat?