

A **habitat** is a place where a plant or animal can get the food, water, shelter and space that it needs to live. Whatever type of habitat an animal or plant lives in, it needs to adapt to suit its environment.

**Adapting** means changing over time to fit in and survive in the conditions in which it lives. For example, animals that live in the hot desert produce very little urine, to conserve water.

Desert plants usually have shiny or hairy leaves to reflect the sunlight and heat. Some animals have colours that blend into the background so they can't easily be seen by predators. This is called **camouflage**.



- 1 For each animal in the table, state its habitat and any adaptations it might have to help it survive in that habitat. Use the word lists below to help you.

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| <b>HABITATS</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the African grasslands</li> <li>• rivers and streams</li> <li>• the forest</li> <li>• the Arctic</li> </ul> |

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| <b>ADAPTATIONS</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keen eyesight for hunting at night</li> <li>• webbed feet for swimming and a duck bill for foraging on the riverbed</li> <li>• a long neck for reaching leaves on trees</li> <li>• white fur for camouflage against the snow</li> </ul> |

Animal	Habitat	Adaptations
owl		
platypus		
polar bear		
giraffe		

- 2 Now in your workbook, write the information in the table into sentences. Use the sentence below as a model.

**The owl lives in the forest and has keen eyesight for hunting at night.**



## B. Food chains

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1 Use the words above each paragraph to fill in the blanks.

### Producers – the beginning of the food chain

producers, photosynthesis, energy, Sun, trees, grass

Plants such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are at the bottom of the food chain. They get their \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ and are called \_\_\_\_\_ because they produce their own food via the process known as \_\_\_\_\_.

### First order consumers – herbivores

deer, consumers, herbivores, mice, plants

Animals such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are first order \_\_\_\_\_ because they get their energy from eating \_\_\_\_\_. These animals are known as \_\_\_\_\_ because they eat or consume herbs and plants.

### Second and third order consumers – carnivores

owls, carnivores, predators, prey, foxes

Animals such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are second and third order consumers because they eat animals. They are \_\_\_\_\_. They are the \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ on smaller animals.

### The food chain

Sun, consumers, chain, web

We can trace the path of energy from the \_\_\_\_\_ to producers then first order \_\_\_\_\_ then second and third order consumers. They all link together to form a food \_\_\_\_\_. Most animals have a variety of organisms in their diet, so they belong to several food chains. All the food chains in a particular ecosystem make up a complex matrix called a food \_\_\_\_\_.