

# Habitat Study Guide

Name \_\_\_\_\_

What are the 5 basic needs of all living things?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Name 3 habitats, describe them, and tell 2 animals that can be found in that habitat.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Circle the animals from the list that could be found in a forest habitat and draw a box around animals that could be found in a freshwater habitat.

- |             |        |          |           |       |
|-------------|--------|----------|-----------|-------|
| River otter | camels | birds    | beaver    | frog  |
| Whale       | deer   | squirrel | alligator | eagle |

If all the plants in a habitat died, what do you think would happen to the animals?

What would happen to plants if bees and other insects were killed by pesticides?

What would animals do if more and more people started using their lake habitat for boating?

Which of the following is an example of a changed behavior in response to a change in environment?

- A. Goats graze in herds, rather than alone across a field.
- B. Lions chase gazelle across the savanna for food.
- C. Canada geese fly from one pond to another in their ecosystem.
- D. Coyotes begin to eat small pets in a growing suburb.

Some kinds of termites are adapted to eat wood and to live in places that are warm, dark, and damp. Which of the following habitats would be best for these termites?

- A. a fallen log in a forest
- B. a desert
- C. a shallow pond
- D. a frozen plain

Organisms have needs for survival that are found in their particular habitats. Organisms can only survive in an area where its basic needs (air, food, water, shelter or space, and light) can be met.

A habitat offers a range of conditions, for example water, air, food, shelter or space, or sunlight, which allow some organisms to live there. The specific characteristics of the habitat that allow the needs of energy, growth, and protection to be met are dependent upon the particular plant or animal.

The habitat for some animals and plants may cover a large area. Some examples may be:

- grazing animals may need lots of area to get enough food,
- birds fly from place to place to get food, or
- large trees will grow in areas where enough water is available for their growth.

Other animals or plants have habitats that may be a small part of a larger environment. Some examples may be:

- squirrels may make their nests in one tree in a forest,
- some small insects may live under a fallen log in the forest;
- orchid flowers live by hanging on trees found only in warm, wet areas, or
- water lilies live in ponds in the shallow water.

*Resources* (basic needs) within a habitat can keep only a certain number of plants and animals alive. This depends on how well the habitat provides for the needs of the plant or animal. Changes in a habitat can affect the survival of a plant and animal. There are many changes that can occur within a habitat that would force the animals or plants to change or adapt to survive.

- Habitat change can occur naturally. Some changes occur rapidly, for example, disease, fire, hurricanes, landslides, volcanoes, earthquakes, or changes in temperature or amount of rainfall (drought or flood) can change a habitat. Some changes occur slowly, for example, the changes in a plant life due to changes in sunlight (grasses to shrubs to trees), or if erosion occurs, causing the soil to wear away, fewer plants will be able to survive. When these events happen, the habitat usually cannot provide the needs for the animals or plants to survive there anymore.
- Humans can also cause habitat changes. For example, clearing land to build homes, buildings, or farmland can cause the animals in that area to have to move to another location for food or shelter. Plants that normally grow there would not find the conditions for their growth available anymore.
- Other animals or plants could also move into a habitat taking up needed space and food.
- If animals or plants cannot adapt to changes in the environment, *extinction* (loss of an entire group of organisms) of that type of animal or plant can occur.

