

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Word Meanings

Read the short story and answer each question.



What is a Habitat?

A habitat is the place where an animal lives.

It is where the animal finds food, water, and shelter. Every animal has a habitat that meets its needs.

Forests are a habitat for many animals.

Squirrels live in trees. Deer eat plants that grow on the ground. Bears sleep in caves or under trees.

Deserts are hot and dry.

Animals like snakes and lizards live there. They are used to the heat. Some animals hide during the day and come out at night.

Oceans are large habitats full of salt water.

Fish, whales, and crabs all live in the ocean. They swim, crawl, or float through the water.

Each habitat is special.

Animals live where they can survive. That's what makes a habitat the perfect home.

Name: _____

What is a Habitat?

1. What does the word "habitat" mean in this text?

- A. The animal's food
- B. The animal's home
- C. A place with no water
- D. A forest with bears

2. What does "shelter" most likely mean in the first paragraph?

- A. A place to hide and be safe
- B. A store where food is sold
- C. A type of forest
- D. A kind of animal

3. Fill in the blank:

A desert is hot and _____.

4. What clues helped you understand the word "habitat"?

5. How do the words in the text help you understand each type of habitat?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: J

Lexile Level: 290L-440L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational (Life Science)

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read about habitats—places where animals live. As we read, we'll look for important words in the text and use clues around those words to figure out what they mean. This helps us understand new science words without needing a dictionary."

Vocabulary: habitat, shelter, survive, forest, desert

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about animal homes or where animals live?
 2. Have you ever heard the word "habitat" before? What do you think it might mean?
 3. Why do animals need a place to find food and water?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What animals live in the forest? What does the word "shelter" mean in that sentence?
 2. Why do animals in the desert hide during the day?
 3. How does the ocean habitat help sea animals live?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did you figure out what the word "habitat" means?
 2. Why is it important to understand the meaning of new words when reading?
 3. Can you think of another science word you've learned by using context clues?
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Activity Idea

Have students make a "Habitat Word Map." In the center, they write "habitat" and draw an animal in its home. Around the word, they draw and label food, water, and shelter using details from the story. Then, students write a new sentence using the word "habitat" in their own words, showing they understand its meaning through use and illustration.

