

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Academic Vocabulary

Read the short story and answer each question.



## What Is a Habitat?

A **habitat** is the natural home of an animal or plant. It includes everything the living thing needs to survive, such as food, water, shelter, and space. Each habitat is different depending on where it is found.

There are many kinds of habitats. A **desert** is hot and dry with very little rainfall. Cacti and lizards live there. A **wetland** is soggy and filled with water. Frogs and ducks are common in wetlands because they need lots of moisture.

Some animals are very good at **adapting** to their habitat. To adapt means to change or behave in a way that helps you survive in your environment. For example, a polar bear's thick fur is an adaptation that helps it stay warm in cold places.

If a habitat changes too much—like losing trees or becoming polluted—animals may not survive. That's why scientists study habitats and work to protect them.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## What Is a Habitat?

1. What does the word **habitat** mean in the passage?

- A. The natural home of a plant or animal
- B. A type of building
- C. A kind of weather
- D. A hunting tool

2. What does it mean to **adapt** to a habitat?

- A. To change or act in a way that helps you survive
- B. To move to a new home every week
- C. To live without food or water
- D. To leave when it rains

3. Fill in the blank:

A polar bear's thick fur is an \_\_\_\_\_ that helps it stay warm in the cold.

4. What clues in the passage help you figure out what the word *adapt* means?

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5. Why is it important for animals to live in the right habitat?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** M

**Lexile Level:** 425L-575L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Informational / Life Science

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## Introducing the Text

"Today we're reading a passage about different habitats. We'll focus on learning how to understand tricky science words like *habitat* and *adapt* by using the context of the sentence around them."

**Vocabulary:** habitat, desert, wetland, adapt, environment

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think a habitat is?
  2. Why do animals need certain things in their environment?
  3. Have you ever seen animals in different habitats, like a zoo or nature show?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are some examples of different habitats mentioned in the text?
  2. How does the author explain what *adapt* means?
  3. What kind of animals live in deserts or wetlands?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What clues helped you understand the word *adapt* or *habitat*?
  2. Why is it important to protect habitats?
  3. How can knowing the meaning of science words help us learn more?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create a "Habitat Word Web." In the center, write *habitat*. Around it, add branches for words like *adapt*, *shelter*, *survive*, and *environment*. Students write a short definition for each word based on clues from the passage and draw an animal that fits each word.

