

# For Creative Minds

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## What is in a Habitat?

Habitats are more than just the plants and animals that live there. They are communities of plants, animals and non-living things that interact in certain locations. Look at the illustrations for the different habitats in the book and see if you can figure out some of the answers to the following habitat questions. For possible answers and a list of all of the plants and animals in each of the habitat illustrations, go to [www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com), click on the book's cover, and then the Teaching Activities.



How many animals can you find and count in each illustration?

How are the plants and animals in some habitats alike and how are they different?

Some things might live in more than one kind of habitat. Can you find any plants or animals that are in more than one habitat?

What are some of the non-living things you see in the illustrations? What things are man-made?

What are some living and non-living things you see when you go outside?

What are some ways that plants or animals interact with each other or non-living things?

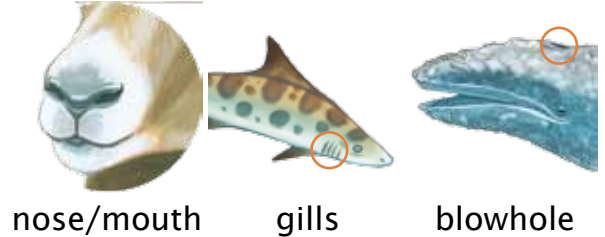
What are some ways that a habitat might change?

# Adaptations and Basic Needs: True or False Questions

Plants and animals (living things) live in habitats that meet all of their basic needs. Animals need food, water, oxygen to breathe, and a safe space for shelter and to give birth to their young. Plants need sunlight and heat (temperature), water, soil to grow, and a way for seeds to move (disperse).

Living things have body parts and behaviors (adaptations) that help them live in their habitats and meet their basic needs. Can you tell if the statements are true or false?

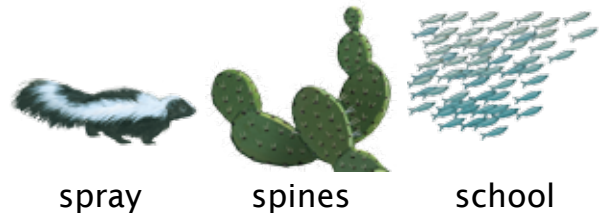
**1** Animals need oxygen to breathe. Many mammals take in oxygen through their mouths or noses, fish use gills, and some marine mammals (dolphins and whales) come to the surface of the water and take oxygen in using blowholes.



**2** All animals raise their young in burrows, nests, or dens.



**3** Living things have body parts or behaviors to protect themselves from predators or things that might hurt them.



**4** Most animals move from one place to another. Special body parts help them move in their habitat but not easily in other habitats. For example, which body parts help animals move in the air, land, or water?



**5** All living things need energy to grow and have body parts to help them get food.

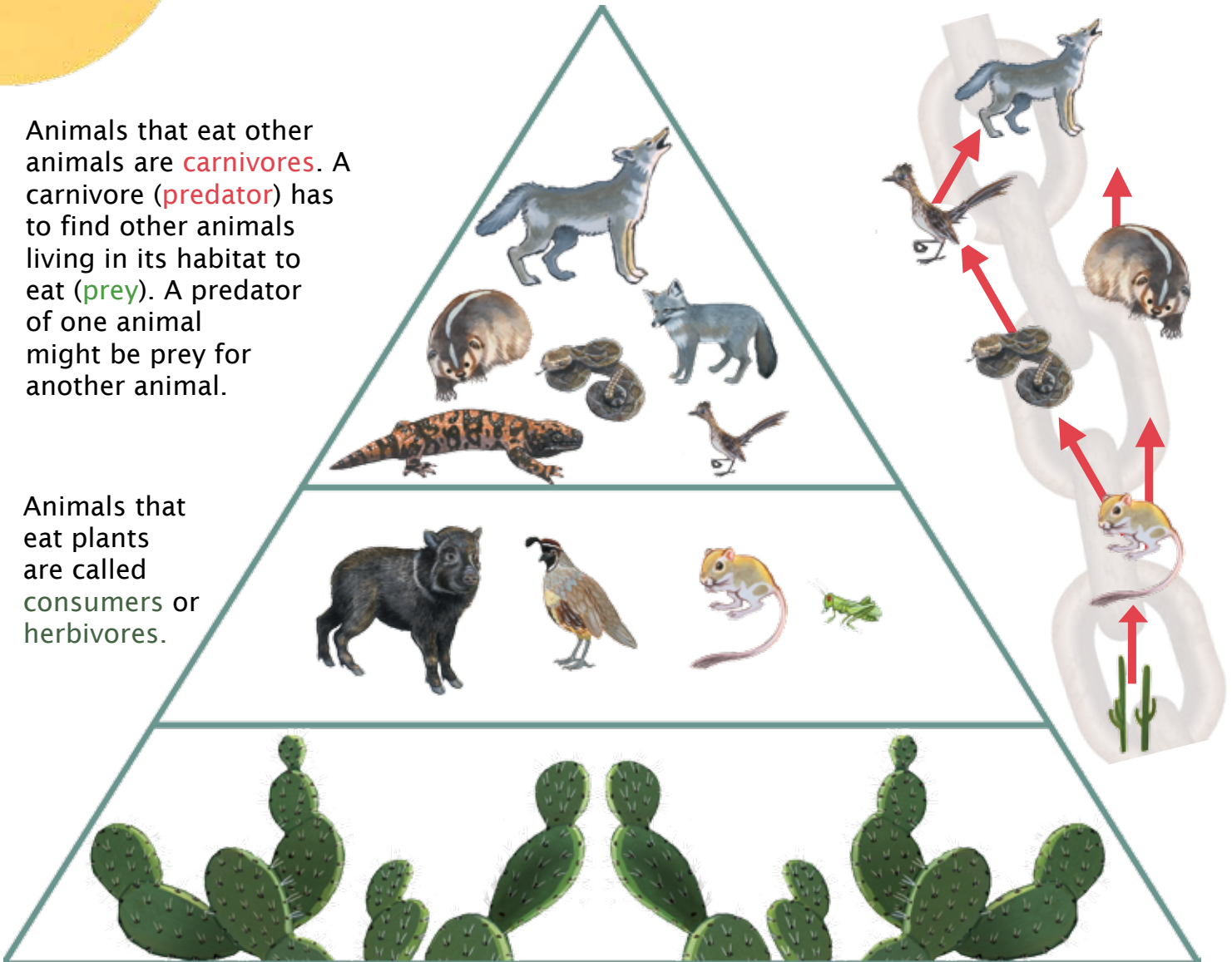


Answers: 1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. True  
 water through their roots (not shown).  
 water-flukes (or fins) 5. True: Green plants get their energy from the sun through their leaves and  
 animals school or stay in big groups, for safety in numbers. 4. True: air-wings, land-legs and feet,  
 instinct. However, many animals do build burrows, nests, or dens to raise their young. 3. True: Some

# Food Chains and Webs: The Circle of Life

Animals that eat other animals are **carnivores**. A carnivore (**predator**) has to find other animals living in its habitat to eat (**prey**). A predator of one animal might be prey for another animal.

Animals that eat plants are called **consumers** or **herbivores**.



Plants (producers) make their own food from **sunlight (photosynthesis)** and nutrients in the soil that come from decaying things that were once alive.

**Omnivores** eat both plants and animals.


All of the plants and animals that are eaten by or that eat a particular animal are part of that animal's **food chain**. One habitat will have many different food chains that are linked together, called a **food web**.

Food for thought: Some animals live in more than one habitat. For example, a cougar (also called mountain lion, puma, or panther) and bighorn sheep might live in the desert and mountains.

- Could you find animals that live in a swamp in the desert? Why or why not?
- Could you find animals that live in a cave in the desert? Why or why not?

## Odd One Out: Classification and Habitats

Which item is different than the rest? Answers are upside down on the bottom of the page.

<p><b>Plants</b> are at the bottom of food webs. Which one is not a plant?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>grass</span> <span>anemones</span> <span>maple leaves</span> <span>milkweed</span> </div>	<p>All <b>birds</b> have feathers and wings but not all birds fly. Which one of these is not a bird, but a flying mammal?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>eagle</span> <span>duck</span> <span>bat</span> <span>robin</span> </div>
<p><b>Invertebrates</b> don't have a backbone (vertebrate) at any stage of their lives. They live in all habitats, even deep in the ocean. Which of these is not an invertebrate?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>sea stars</span> <span>butterfly</span> <span>fish</span> <span>beetle</span> </div>	<p>All <b>mammal</b> babies drink milk from their mothers and get their oxygen from the air. Which of these mammals lives in the ocean?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>deer</span> <span>black bear</span> <span>whale</span> <span>bighorn</span> </div>
<p>Which of these living things would not survive living in water or <b>wetlands</b>?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>heron</span> <span>frog</span> <span>cactus</span> <span>fish</span> </div>	<p>Which of these animals would you not find living in a <b>forest</b>?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>red fox</span> <span>mussels</span> <span>rabbit</span> <span>owl</span> </div>

**Answers:** **Plants:** Sea anemones are animals (invertebrates), not a plant. **Birds:** Bats are the only mammals that fly. **Invertebrates:** Fish have backbones (vertebrates). Some scientists worry that animal names like starfish or jellyfish are confusing because those animals are not fish. They recommend using "sea star" or "jellies" instead. Insects, beetles, and mollusks are all types of invertebrates. **Mammals:** Whales and dolphins are marine mammals. They come to the surface of the water to breathe through blowholes. **Wetlands:** The heron, frog, and fish live in or around water but the cactus can only live in dry habitats. **Forest:** Mussels need saltwater to live.