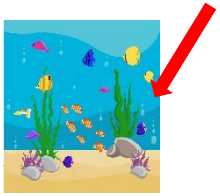
Living things and their habitats

We will learn…

A habitat is a place where living things, such as animals and plants, can find all of the things they need to survive. This includes food, water, air, space to move and grow and some shelter. Some habitats are large, like the ocean, and some are very small, such as under a log. Some habitats in our local area include the river and woodlands. Other habitats include the coast and the forest.



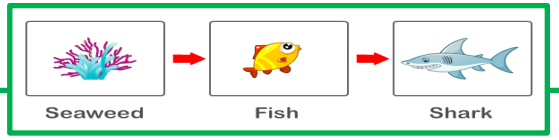
Microhabitats are very small habitats where minibeasts may live. Examples of microhabitats include under stones, in grass and in the soil. Minibeasts that can be found there include worms, snails, ants, centipedes, millipedes, and butterflies and they help to keep the microhabitat healthy. Minibeasts are able to survive in their habitats because they can find the things they need to survive there, such as food and water.

Key vocabulary:

habitat	The natural environment in which an animal or plant normally lives or grows.
food chain	A series of living things which are linked to each other because each thing feeds on the one next to it in the series.
microhabitat	A small part of the environment that supports a habitat, such as a fallen log in a forest.
minibeast	A small invertebrate animal such as an insect or spider.
vegetation	Plants, trees and flowers.
depend	If you depend on someone or something, you need them in order to be able to survive physically.

Food chains

Animals and plants depend on each other to survive. For example, worms depend on plants because they feed on dead leaves, but plants depend on worms who make the soil healthy by digging holes and allowing air in. Birds also need worms because they eat them. Worms are a source of food for birds. This is called a food chain. If there were no worms, there would be less birds as there would be more competition for food. The soil would not be as healthy without worms. **Example of a food chain**



Working scientifically

In science this term we will learn the following practical skills:

- ✓ observing closely, using simple equipment
- ✓ identifying and classifying

Investigate:

- Observe carefully a microhabitat and sketch the plants you find. Can you find any evidence of plants being eaten? What other living things can you see?
- Compare two different habitats and explain what animals and plants can be found there.

Inspirational Scientist

Jane Goodall – zoologist who studies chimpanzees