

Explorify Resources: Living things and their habitats ages 4 -7

Below are Explorify activities that can help you meet teaching objectives links to habitats and food chains ages 4 – 7 together with suggested follow up activities.



Objective	Activity	Suggested use
<p>explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive (England)</p> <p>I can distinguish between living and non living things. I can sort living things into groups and explain my decisions. (Scotland)</p>	Living-moving OOO	Great for a discussion about what is alive and dead. Is a tree alive? A plane moves does that mean it is alive? Follow this up with a walk around school identifying things that are alive and dead. Children often get confused by fire and flames.
	Animal remains - Explorify MB	This mystery bag activity suggests putting things like bones and sea shells in a bag for children to sort.
	Rugged ridges - Explorify ZIZO	Sea shell
<p>identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other (England)</p> <p>How do living things survive? (Northern Ireland)</p> <p>I have observed living things in the environment over time and am becoming aware of how they depend on each other. (Scotland)</p>	Habitats	
	How would you make a shelter for a human? - Explorify	Children first need to understand what a habitat is. See: Living things and their habitats...tackle the tricky bits - Explorify You can use this Explorify activity to discuss what humans need for a habitat and then develop it into a DT activity. It also links well to Materials, as you can discuss what materials would be suitable.
	Local habitats	
	Craggy surfaces ZIZO Tall Trunks OOO Muddy buds - Explorify OOO	Discussing who lives in trees in your school grounds, or nearby, is a good starting point for a familiar habitat. Children can take a spotter sheet outside with them and record what they see. You could also discuss what changes could be made to your school grounds to support biodiversity. http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/categorymenu/?cat=activities
Which pollinators visit our school grounds? - Explorify BQ	Could be linked to a spotter sheet: https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/07/Pollinator-identification-chart.pdf https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zx4k96f	

	Children do the investigation by going out and seeing which pollinators are in the school ground or local park. Take photos to try and identify the pollinators when back in the classroom.
Wider UK habitats	
Thorny issue OOO https://explorify.uk/en/activities/listen-what-can-you-hear/night-time-antics WCYH Buzzing with life - Explorify WGO Wildlife in the pond - Explorify OOO A home for baby birds - Explorify OOO Beavering away - Explorify WGO	These activities are linked to UK habitats Again children should get out exploring – looking at plants and animals. Different nests. Take it further suggests installing bird boxes in grounds Beavers living in a freshwater habitat building dams.
Habitats outside the UK	
Wild things - Explorify WCYH Savanna sidekicks - Explorify OOO SPF natural - Explorify WGO	Savannah habitat OOO links to a BBC video about elephant adaptations. Three savannah animals protecting themselves from the sun.
In the swim - Explorify WGO	Ocean habitat
Remarkable reef - Explorify WGO	Coral reef
Frozen desert - Explorify ZIZO Family meal WGO	Antarctic habitat https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx882hv/articles/z3sr4wx Polar Bear https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zx882hv/articles/z3sr4wx
Nothing lives here... or does it? - Explorify WGO	Desert habitat

	Humans lived underwater - Explorify WI	Develop into who does live underwater? What is the habitat like?
identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including micro-habitats	Name plants and animals in their habitats	
	Spotter sheets: http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/categorymenu/?cat=activities https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities	
	Mystery markings - Explorify OOO	Caterpillar, zebra and fish. Leads to a discussion about why the stripes.
	Hot-steppers - Explorify OOO	Lizard, duck and lion focusing on difference in feet and function but you can just use it to focus on reptile, bird and mammal.
	Animals in winter - Explorify OOO	Squirrel, wolf and reindeer – all in the snow
	To flee or not to flee - Explorify WGO	This shows lots of animals in different habitats You could stop the video at key points and get the children to describe the habitat and the animals in it. They could then choose an animal and write a fact file about it and how it is suited to its habitat.
	In the waves - Explorify WCYH	Dolphins
	Hungry hedgehogs - Explorify WGO	Hedgehog in habitat
	Tiny teeth - Explorify ZIZO	Tadpole
	Growing in hot and cold places - Explorify OOO	Three plants – Lichen, cactus and fern
	Falling in to place - Explorify WGO	Autumn shots of a wood – could be used for woodland habitat.
	Australian animals - Explorify OOO	Three Australian animals
	Brown and bumpy - Explorify ZIZO	Snail
	Muddy buds - Explorify OOO	Ant, worm and slug
Tip the scales - Explorify OOO	Crocodile, turtle and snake	

	Baby animals - Explorify OOO	Baby duck, lamb and elephant
<p>describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food. (England)</p> <p>can explore examples of food chains and show an appreciation of how animals and plants depend on each other for food. (Scotland)</p>	Food Chains	
	Hungry Snails WGO	Use this video to discuss what is happening and the questions the children have. You could collect snails from the school grounds and investigate what they eat. See the Taking it further part of the activity.
	Muddy meal - Explorify WGO	Egret searching for food (fish eater). This can lead to a discussion about the diets of different birds.
	Special delivery - Explorify WGO	Baby birds being fed https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/ This is a good website for young children and gives information on diet.
	Hedgerow heroes - Explorify OOO	Who eats berries?
	Very hungry caterpillars - Explorify WGO	Caterpillars eating leaves
	Takeaway dinner - Explorify WGO	Vulture who lives on bones
	Hungry hedgehogs - Explorify	Hedgehogs are omnivores, so they are good animal to discuss.
Wrigglers - Explorify WGO	Earth worms moving through soil – this can lead to discussion about what they eat.	

Useful other resources to support planning can be found at: [PLAN primary science assessment resources \(planassessment.com\)](http://planassessment.com) and [Assessment \(TAPS\) - Curriculum Materials | Primary Science Teaching Trust \(psts.org.uk\)](http://psts.org.uk)