

Ocean Habitats

Have you ever wondered what plants and animals live in the ocean and how they survive underwater? Well, pack your swimsuit, we're off to find out!

Look at all these fish! Big fish, small fish and so many colours. And there's seaweed growing here. Doesn't it look like a plant? But it's an algae. Seaweed grows close to the surface because it uses the sun to make its own food, just like a plant



And what's that? It's lots and lots of plankton! Plankton is made up of lots of tiny tiny plants and animals. These plants are at the beginning of most of the oceans' food chains.

Whales are the biggest animals in the world and most of them only eat plankton which are the smallest, so they must have to eat a lot! Whales can stay underwater for an hour but they come to the surface to breath. Most ocean habitats are very very large and very very wet.



Coastal Habitats

Here in the UK, we have lots of coastal habitats. Particularly near to where we live on the South coast. Ever wondered what plants and animals live there? Well pack your net, we're off to look in some rock pools!



It looks very wet and windy here. But there is life here. Like that seaweed! And animals, like those limpets on that rock. Limpets are a kind of snail with a shell and soft body. They hold very tightly to the rock so they don't get washed away by strong waves.

And what's this? It's a starfish! Can you see it move? No? That's because it moves very, very slowly. Most have five arms but some have more.

And there's a crab. They move sideways. How strange! They can squeeze into small cracks in the rock or burrow into sand. Plus they can live in water and in air. Amazing!



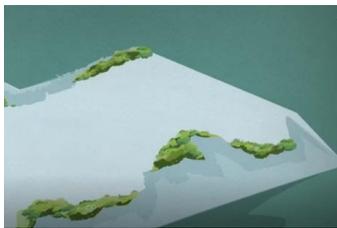
Coastal habitats are wet and windy, but there is lots to see!

Polar Habitats

Have you ever wondered what plants and animals live in a polar habitat and how they survive in the cold? Well, wrap up warm, we're off to the Arctic Circle to find out!

Brr...It looks really cold here! There are not many plants that can grow here as all the water is frozen. But this small bank of moss survives by growing close to the ground, keeping it out of the freezing wind. And there's an animal here that only lives in the Arctic, but I think it's hiding...There it is! A polar bear! It's thick fur helps it to hide and keep warm in the freezing cold.

Plus an Arctic fox. It can hear its prey, deep under the snow. And a bird! The snowy owl which nest on the ground as there are no trees.



And what about the South Pole on the other side of the Earth? What will we find in Antarctica?

Wow! A plant is growing here! Lichen. One of the ways it survives is by taking water directly from the ice.

A seal sitting on the ice. They have lots of fat under their skin that keeps them warm.

A penguin off to look for food. They're only found here in the South. They are birds, but can't fly. They are really good swimmers though!

So, polar habitats are cold, windy and covered in snow and ice.



Desert Habitats

Have you ever wondered about what plants and animals live in a desert and how they survive there?



This is the Sahara. The largest desert on Earth! It looks like it hardly ever rains here! Incredibly, there are still plants growing here. Like this acacia tree which has long thorns that hold water. Plus very deep roots in the ground that gets the water it needs to survive.



Animals too! A camel. What's with the hump? It stores fat in that hump to use as food and can survive for up to seven months without drinking water!

Look at that gecko! They don't blink so have to lick their eyes to keep them clean!

And that's a scorpion. It can survive for twelve months without any food.



Desert habitats are dry and have very little water.

Rainforest Habitats

In the UK, we get lots of rain. But this habitat gets so much rain that they named it a rainforest! This is the Amazon rainforest, the largest rainforest on Earth. It's really rainy and very warm!



Plants grow well here because it's so hot and wet. This tree has its own microhabitat. Microhabitats are very small habitats inside a bigger one. It's home to lots of bugs and insects. All in this tiny spot of the tree.



And what's that animal up in the tree? A jaguar! How did it get up there? Its sharp claws make climbing trees a simple task.



There are other animals too, like that howler monkey. It uses its tail like an extra arm, helping it move from tree to tree. And it's eating a banana which is one of over three thousand types of fruit that grow in the rainforest.

There's an insect too! A butterfly. They can taste fruit through their feet. Imagine that!

Rainforest habitats are wet and hot!