



Wellington Primary Science

Parental Information

Year Group – 2

Term – Autumn

Topic – Animal Survival

In the Animal Survival project, your child will revisit prior learning about habitats. They will learn about invertebrates and their characteristics. They will learn about microhabitats and go outside to identify and observe living things in various microhabitats. They will identify and research what an observed animal needs to survive and will construct simple food chains, learning the terms 'producer' and 'consumer.' They will explore how humans can harm and help animals' habitats and visit the school grounds to look at ways habitats are already being supported and potential improvements. Children will learn about the offspring of different animal groups, matching parents to their offspring. They will order the stages in animals' life cycles and investigate the life cycle of an insect, observing it over time. They will revisit learning about the four seasons and explore how animals' behaviour changes across the seasons and how this links to their life cycles. Children will plan and make habitat improvements within the school grounds, evaluating the success of their habitat improvements by collecting firsthand data.

Your child will receive a copy of the knowledge organiser below to aid their learning. Please take time to look through this at home with your child.

Your child will be bringing home a 'Home Learning' guide and workbook, in which they can record home learning tasks for this topic. Included is a further reading suggestion list and some suitable child friendly websites, which can be used to deepen their understanding of the topics that they will be covering in class.

Class teachers will guide your child on activities which will directly support that week's learning and any homework expectations – there is no requirement for the children to complete all of the tasks in the pack.

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the Year Group Team.

Animal Survival

Habitats

A habitat is a place where plants and animals live. There are different habitats, such as forests, polar regions, deserts, oceans, mountains and rainforests.

Habitats have living and non-living parts. Living parts include the plants and animals that live there. Non-living parts include sunlight, air, water, soil and temperature. Each habitat varies in its living and non-living parts.

All living things depend on the living and non-living things in their habitat to survive. This is called interdependence.



mountain habitat



ocean habitat

Microhabitats

A microhabitat is a small habitat contained within a larger habitat. There are different microhabitats.



rock pool



pond



hedgerow



under logs and stones



The living and non-living parts of a microhabitat can be very different to those in the surrounding larger habitat. For example, a pond is found within a larger garden habitat. It is different to the garden because it contains freshwater where frogs, pond snails and duckweed can live.

Survival

Habitats provide the food, water, air, shelter and space that animals need to survive. They need food and water for energy and growth. They need air to breathe. Animals need shelter for protection from weather or dangers. They need space to grow and reproduce.



Invertebrates

Invertebrates are animals without a backbone. They can be sorted based on what they look like. Six invertebrate groups include arachnids, crustaceans, insects, molluscs, myriapods and worms.



mollusc

Food chains

A food chain shows how living things depend on one another for food. All food chains start with a plant, which is a producer, followed by animals, which are consumers. Animals can be herbivores that only eat plants, carnivores that only eat meat or omnivores that eat plants and meat.



lettuce (plant)



slug (omnivore)



hedgehog (carnivore)

Humans and habitats

Humans can harm the habitats of other living things by using chemicals on their gardens, tidying green spaces and digging up habitats. Litter can also harm habitats.



Humans can help habitats in many different ways. They can feed wildlife and build microhabitats, such as ponds or insect hotels. They can leave wild, uncut areas in gardens or public places. They can also remove weeds by hand instead of using chemicals.



feeding wildlife

insect hotel



wild, uncut areas

weeding by hand

Animals and the seasons

Animals change their behaviour as the seasons change in the United Kingdom. In spring, animals reproduce and have offspring. In summer, young animals grow and develop. In autumn, animals prepare for winter. In winter, animals protect themselves from the cold weather by sheltering, hibernating or migrating.



Offspring

Adult animals reproduce to have young called offspring. Having offspring is important for the continued survival of all species of animals. Some offspring look like smaller versions of their parents. Others look very different to their parents.



calf



cow



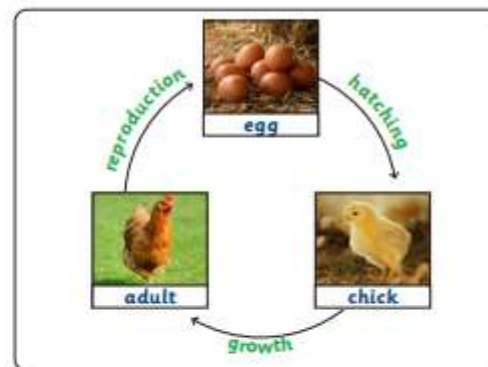
tadpole



frog

Life cycles

All animals have a life cycle. Different animals have different life cycles. A life cycle shows the series of changes that happen to a living thing during its life. A life cycle starts again when adult animals reproduce and have offspring.



chicken's life cycle

Glossary

consumer	A living thing that feeds on other living things. All consumers are animals.
hibernation	A period of deep sleep and inactivity during winter.
producer	A living thing that makes its own food for energy. All producers are plants.
reproduce	The process of producing offspring.
survive	To continue to live or exist.