Animals and their habitats

We will learn…

All living things, which can also be called organisms, have to do certain things to stay alive. These are the life processes (MRS GREN):

- movement
- respiration
- sensitivity
- growth
- reproduction
- excretion
- nutrition

Living things can be grouped according to different criteria (where they live, what type of organism they are, what features they have). For example, a camel can belong in a group of vertebrates, a group of animals that live in the desert, and a group of animals that have four legs.

A classification key is a tool that is used to group living things to help us identify them.

Habitats can change throughout the year and this can have an effect on the plants and animals that live there. Humans can have positive and negative effects on the environment:

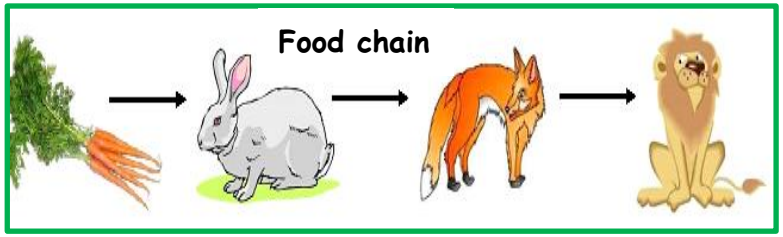
- positive effects: nature reserves, ecological parks
- negative effects: litter, urban development

Key vocabulary:

prey	An animal hunted or captured by another for food.
predator	An animal that kills and eats other animals.
primary consumer	An organism that feeds on producers. They are always herbivores.
secondary consumer	Organisms that eat primary consumers for energy.
tertiary consumer	Tertiary consumers eat primary and secondary consumers as their main source of food.
energy	The ability and strength to do physical things.

A food chain is a simple way to show the direction in which energy moves from the producer to the various consumers to the top or tertiary consumer. The arrows show the direction in which the energy travels.

A food web shows multiple food chains where there are multiple feeding relationships



Working scientifically

- ✓ recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables
- ✓ gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions

Investigate:

- Match predators and their prey depending on their habitats.
- Create food chains for different habitats and compare them. How do the producers, predators and prey compare? What are their teeth like?
- Compare animal populations and explain why some populations (e.g. insects) might be higher than others (e.g. wolves).

Inspirational Scientist

Seirian Sumner – studies animal behaviour in insects