

Nova's Nocturnal Nature Trail

Learning objective: To identify how environmental changes can pose dangers to specific habitats.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions. Use the word bank to help you understand the scientific terminology.

Nova the barn owl spends her nights gliding silently over the meadow, her keen eyes scanning the tall grasses for movement. A habitat is a natural home for living things, providing everything they need to survive, such as food, water, and shelter. The meadow is a bustling ecosystem where bees, mice, and wildflowers thrive together in a delicate balance. However, the environment is constantly changing. When humans build new roads or remove hedgerows, the creatures living there lose their vital resources. For example, if the long grass is cut too short, the field mice have nowhere to hide from predators, and their population begins to decline. This ripple effect impacts the entire food chain; if the mice disappear, Nova may struggle to find enough food to support her owlets. Conservationists work hard to protect these precious spaces, ensuring that habitats remain undisturbed. By maintaining hedgerows and planting native flowers, we can help preserve the homes of our local wildlife, ensuring that the meadow remains a vibrant, healthy sanctuary for generations to come.

Word bank: habitat · nocturnal · ecosystem · environment · conservation · adaptations

1. According to the text, what three things does a habitat provide for the living things that reside there? (2 marks)

2. What happens to the field mice when the long grass in the meadow is cut too short? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the decline of the field mouse population would cause a problem for Nova the barn owl. (2 marks)

4. Why does the author describe the meadow as a 'delicate balance'? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Do you think humans have a responsibility to protect habitats like the meadow? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a meadow habitat at night. Include Nova the barn owl in the sky, a field mouse hiding in the long grass, and one way that humans could help protect this area.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the habitat of a barn owl with that of a polar bear. How do their specific adaptations help them survive in such different environments? What might happen if their environments were swapped?