

Investigating Habitats with Nova the Owl

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and explain how living things are classified and adapted to their specific habitats.

Use this writing scaffold to help you structure your report on a chosen habitat. Nova the Owl needs your help to document the fascinating creatures you find! Use the word bank to help your sentences flow and ensure you justify your findings with scientific evidence.

As the sun sets over the ancient woodland, Nova the owl glides silently through the canopy, observing the complex network of life that calls this habitat home.

Word bank: consequently · adapted for · in contrast · furthermore · specifically · characteristics · survive · environment · interdependent · predator · prey · consequently

1. Introduction: Name the habitat you are investigating and describe its main environmental features. Start by saying: 'The habitat I have chosen to investigate is...', (2 marks)

2. Living Things: Identify three living things found here. Explain how these organisms are interdependent. Start by saying: 'Within this environment, the plants and animals rely on each other because...' (3 marks)

3. Adaptations: Choose one animal and explain how its physical features help it survive. Start by saying: 'A specific animal that thrives here is the [animal name], which is perfectly adapted because...' (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: How would the survival of your chosen animal be affected if the habitat changed, for example, if the temperature increased significantly? Start by saying: 'If the climate of this habitat were to change, the [animal name] might struggle to survive because...' (4 marks)

5. Justification: Why is this habitat considered a balanced ecosystem? Start by saying: 'I believe this habitat is balanced because...' (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise what might happen if one species was removed from this food chain. Start by saying: 'If one species were to disappear, the impact on the habitat would be...' (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Future Creature' that is perfectly adapted to survive in a habitat that is currently experiencing extreme flooding. Justify your design choices by explaining the function of at least three specific body parts you have given it. Compare your creature to an existing species and explain the evolutionary advantages your design holds.