

Nova's Habitat Explorer Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe the characteristics of a specific habitat and explain how living things are adapted to survive there.

Choose a habitat to investigate, such as a woodland, pond, or coastal area. Use your scientific knowledge to complete this fact-file. Remember to think like a scientist: consider how plants and animals are suited to their environment. Use descriptive language and clear, accurate explanations.

Word bank: adaptation · environment · ecosystem · shelter · predator · prey · resources · climate · survival · camouflage

1. Habitat Identification: Name your chosen habitat and describe its main physical features, such as temperature, light levels, and typical landscape. (2 marks)

2. Flora and Fauna: List three living things found in this habitat. Explain why these specific organisms are well-suited to live here. (3 marks)

3. Adaptation Analysis: Choose one animal from your habitat. Justify why a specific feature (e.g., sharp claws, thick fur, or colour) is essential for its survival. (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare your chosen habitat with a contrasting environment (e.g., a desert versus a rainforest). How do the resources available change? (4 marks)

5. Human Impact: Explain why it is important for humans to protect this habitat. What might happen if the environment were damaged or destroyed? (3 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: If the climate in your chosen habitat became significantly warmer or drier, which species might struggle the most? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'new' creature that is perfectly adapted to survive in a hypothetical, extreme habitat of your own invention. Write a short paragraph describing its unique features and how they help it find food and avoid danger.