

Nova's Night-time Habitat Discovery

Learning objective: To understand how living things are classified by their habitats and how animals are adapted to their environments.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions. Make sure to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Nova the barn owl loves the quiet, dark hours of the night. While many creatures are sleeping, Nova glides silently through the ancient woodland, her sharp eyes scanning the forest floor for movement. A habitat is the natural home of an animal or plant, providing everything they need to survive: food, water, shelter, and a place to raise their young. The woodland is the perfect habitat for Nova. Her soft, fringed feathers allow her to fly without making a sound, an important adaptation that helps her sneak up on field mice. She also possesses incredible hearing, which helps her locate prey hidden under dense leaves or snow. Every living thing is adapted to its specific environment. For example, the thick, mossy bark of the oak trees provides a home for tiny beetles, while the high, sturdy branches offer protection for birds. If the climate were to change or the forest were cleared, the balance of this ecosystem would be disrupted, and the creatures living there might struggle to find what they need to stay healthy and safe.

Word bank: habitat · adaptation · nocturnal · environment · ecosystem · insulation

1. According to the text, what are the four things that a habitat must provide for an animal to survive? (2 marks)

2. Name one specific adaptation mentioned in the text that helps Nova the owl hunt effectively. (1 mark)

3. Why does the author describe Nova's flight as 'silent'? Use evidence from the passage to explain. (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what might happen to the beetles if the oak trees in the woodland were cut down? (2 marks)

**5. Do you think it is important for humans to protect natural habitats like the woodland?
Give a reason for your answer. (3 marks)**

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a woodland habitat. Include Nova the owl, a hidden field mouse, and at least two features of the environment (such as a tree or a hollow log) that help these animals survive.



Extension challenge: Research a different animal, such as a polar bear or a camel. Write a short paragraph explaining two physical adaptations that help that animal survive in its specific habitat.