

Nova's Guide to Habitats and Environmental Adaptations

Learning objective: To identify and explain how living things are adapted to suit their environment in different habitats.

Use this writing scaffold to draft a scientific report about a habitat of your choice. Use the word bank to help connect your ideas and ensure you provide scientific justifications for your observations.

A habitat is a natural home or environment where an animal, plant, or other organism lives, and it provides everything required for survival.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · specifically · in comparison · due to · structural adaptation · behavioural adaptation · essential · thrive · ecosystem

1. Introduction: Define your chosen habitat and state why it is unique. Start by saying: 'The habitat I have chosen to investigate is the... which is characterised by...' (2 marks)

2. Structural Adaptations: Describe one organism living there. Explain why its physical features are useful. Start by saying: 'One species that thrives here is the..., which possesses... because...' (3 marks)

3. Behavioural Adaptations: Describe how the organism acts to survive. Start by saying: 'In terms of behaviour, this creature... to ensure it can...' (3 marks)

4. Comparison: Compare this habitat to a contrasting one. Start by saying: 'In contrast to a..., the... environment requires animals to...' (3 marks)

5. Justification: Explain why the organism would struggle if moved to a different habitat. Start by saying: 'If this organism were relocated to a..., it would likely face challenges because...' (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise the importance of the habitat. Start by saying: 'Ultimately, the balance of this ecosystem is vital because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine a sudden climate shift occurs in your chosen habitat, causing the average temperature to rise by 5 degrees. Justify which adaptations might become a disadvantage and propose one new adaptation that would help the organism survive this change. Explain your reasoning in a short paragraph.