

8th grade

Habitats

Habitats. What is a habitat?

- A habitat, or biome, is the type of environment in which plants and animals live. Habitat is dictated by what kinds of plants grow there, the climate and the geography. Rainforest, coral reefs and the tundra are all habitats where particular kinds of plants and animals might be found.

Terrestrial Habitats

- Terrestrial habitats include forests, grasslands, deserts and rainforests. They are typically defined by factors such as plant structure (trees and grasses), leaf types (eg. broadleaf and needle leaf), plant spacing (forest, woodland, savanna) and climate.



Freshwater Habitats

- Freshwater habitats include bogs, ponds, lakes, rivers and streams. About 3% of Earth's water is freshwater, but this includes the water locked up in the ice caps and trapped in rocks and soil as groundwater. Only a tiny fraction (0.014%) is surface water in the form of rivers, lakes and swamps.

- **For ex: Bog**

- Bogs, though similar to swamps or marshes, are a distinctive kind of wetland where peat forms from dead plant matter. Waterlogged conditions set this cycle going: still water holds little oxygen compared to flowing water, so plant material can't decay fully and slowly amasses. The decaying plants keep the oxygen level suppressed. Bogs are common in places with wet climates like Siberia, Ireland and Scandinavia.

- **Lakes and ponds**

- From the smallest pond (1m square) to the largest lake, this biome provides many opportunities for life to thrive. Because many of these bodies of water are closed environments, they often have self-contained ecologies, enabling some to become evolutionary microcosms. One such example is the African Great Lakes, where over a thousand new species of cichlid fish have evolved during the last 12,400 to 100,000 years.



Marine Habitats

- Approximately 71% of the Earth's surface is covered by the oceans, an area of some 223698816km/sq. Although marine life evolved around three billion years before life on land, marine habitats are relatively poorly studied and much of the ocean's depths remains unexplored.
- **For ex,,: Deep ocean**
- The deep ocean begins where the continental shelves and their shallow waters give way to the dark depths where little or no sunlight penetrates. Here, in the layer underneath the sunlit open oceans, live some of the most bizarre and highly adapted creatures on the planet. With no plants or algae here to photosynthesize and form the base of the food chain, life here is largely dependent on the dead material and droppings that sink down from above.



**What is a
habitat?**





Pete Cairns / naturepl.com



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Tony Phelps / naturepl.com









Doug Wechsler / naturepl.com

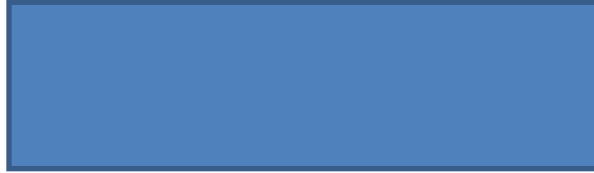


David Noton / naturepl.com

Forest







Mike Wilkes / naturepl.com



LYNN M. STONE / naturepl.com



Christophe Courteau / naturepl.com

Formative Assessment- Writing

- In pairs, write a short description of the area in Kazakhstan in their own words.
- **For example:**
- *Pavlodar This area includes the picturesque Bayan-Aul National Park, which is forest, shrub, steppe and meadow.*
- Write a short description of approximately 10 – 15 words for each area based on the description given, but in their own words

Formative Assessment- Speaking

- This objective will be assessed through a guided anecdote-telling task which follows on from the tasks above.
- You are going to have to speak for about a minute standing in front of the map recounting a trip, telling an anecdote or joke about a particular place area on the map.
- You will be given prompts such as: background, feelings and reactions, moral of the story ... etc. to guide them.
- You will be given 10 minutes to research, make note-cards, prepare ...