

## **Glossary**

**adapted:** (v.) all animals and plants in a habitat are perfectly suited to live there e.g. a Fennec Fox is suited the desert habitat with its large ears to keep cool

**animal (n.)** any of a kingdom of living things composed of many cells with capacity for active movement, in rapid response to stimulation

**arrow (n.)** means "is eaten by" in a food chain and shows the direction of the food chain.

**branched key (n.)** this tool is used to identify organisms within a local habitat using yes or no questions.



**carnivore (n.)** an animal that eats meat e.g. Lions and tigers are carnivores.

**Consumer (n.)** an organism (usually an animal) that eats another organism as food for energy

**Endangered (v.)** when a habitat or certain organisms living in it

are under threat of extinction. e.g. the polar bear has come under threat of extinction because of retreating ice fields.

**food chain (n.)** a diagram used to show the feeding relationships in a local habitat. It always starts with a plant, the producer of the all the energy in the chain, which is passed on through subsequent consumers.

Oak leaf  caterpillar  thrush  kestrel

**habitat (n.)** the place where animals and plants live interdependent upon each other and perfectly suited to live there. A pond is a perfect habitat for a pond skater. Its body is perfectly adapted to live and feed there.

**herbivore (n.)** an animal that only eats plant material e.g. Cows are herbivores.

**interdependent (n.)** all animals and plants in a habitat are interdependent on each other.

Oak leaf  caterpillar  thrush  kestrel

In this food chain, the thrush is dependent upon the caterpillar for food. If there were a shortage of caterpillars, there would not be enough food for the next generation of thrushes, this in turn would affect the kestrel population.

**omnivore (n.)** an animal that can eat both meat and plants e.g. Pigs, humans and chimps are all omnivores.

**predator (n.)** An animal that feeds on other organisms is a predator e.g. Caterpillars are predators as much as lions are because they both feed on other living things.

**prey (n.)** an organism that is hunted and killed for food by another organism e.g. The thrush is prey for the kestrel.