

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.