Year 2 Spring Term

Living things and their habitats

Prior knowledge learned in year 1 - Not covered in year 1. However, as part of animals including humans - identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals - identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores

National Curriculum for year 2

Explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive - identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other - identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats - describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.

Overview

-All around us, there are some things that are alive, some things that are dead, and some things that have never been alive.

-All living things have certain characteristics that help to keep them alive and healthy.

-Living things live in habitats that suit them, and which provide for their basic needs.

-Living things depend on other living things in order to survive.

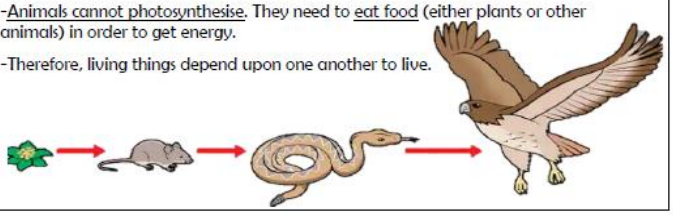
Food Chains

-Every living thing needs food in order to create energy. This process is called nutrition.

-Plants achieve nutrition by photosynthesising, using water, carbon dioxide and light.

-Animals cannot photosynthesise. They need to eat food (either plants or other animals) in order to get energy.

-Therefore, living things depend upon one another to live.



Characteristics of Living Things

M-R-S G-R-E-N

You can remember the seven features of living things by using the acronym MRS GREN.

M	Movement	Animals move in many different ways. Plants grow and turn towards light.
R	Respiration	Plants and animals use oxygen in the air to turn food into energy.
S	Sensitivity	Living things can detect changes in their surroundings.
G	Growth	Living things get bigger and grow.
R	Reproduction	Animals have young. Plants create seeds from which new plants grow.
E	Excretion	Living things get rid of things that they make but don't need.
N	Nutrition	Living things need food/nutrients for energy.

Habitats

-A habitat is a home environment for plants, animals, and other living things.

-Examples of habitats include:

-Desert; Rainforest;

-Woodland; Ocean;

-Meadow; Seashore.

-Micro-habitats are small, specific home environments, e.g. individual trees, a pond, under a rock, or a pile of logs.

-Habitats contain features that make them suitable to the things that live there, e.g., food, shelter, or temperature.

-Habitats can change over the year & over time, so some animals migrate.

Vocabulary

Living, Dead, Habitat, Energy,

Food chain, Predator, Prey,

Woodland, Pond, Desert

Herbivore, Omnivore, Carnivore

Suggested texts

- Living things and their habitats
- Hidden in the grass

Magnificent habitats

Scientists

- Rachel Carson- Marine Pollution
- Liz Bonnin Conservationniste
- Eugenie Clark- marine biologist

Can you give an example of something that has never been alive, is dead, is living?

What is a habitat?

Can you give an example of an animal and a suitable habitat?

Can you explain a simple food chain?

Can you give an example of a food source for a particular animal?