



## Habitat Heroes

This activity will build learners' familiarity with different habitats, what they may look like and what wildlife might live there – before discovering what places for wildlife they already have in their own outdoor space. Learners will explore illustrative habitat scenes, looking for the wildlife hidden within them and considering what kind of spaces they might be, and then upload their own discoveries to our online map.

Together, we can create a collaborative picture of the diversity of our education settings! Habitat Heroes is a great introductory activity to get comfortable with the concept of habitats and identification, before you [map your site](#) in more detail.

### Teaching time

30 minutes - 1 hour

### Learning outcomes

- Make close observations of nature noticing similarities and differences between types of habitats
- Identify a range of micro-habitats and habitats in the school grounds from pictures
- Understand that different types of living things live in different habitats according to their needs

Use the QR codes on the Habitat Heroes activity page to access the survey. Habitat Heroes uses your location from your device, so make sure that you enable this or zoom in and add your point to the map manually. If delivering this activity offline, you can add your records to the map when back inside by visiting the [Habitat Heroes map](#) on a browser and clicking 'Add record'.

### Step by step: Part 1

Begin by introducing the concept of a habitat. For younger learners, take a look at our [nature library catalogue](#) for suggestions on suitable picture books that introduce the theme of habitats. For learners who may have already been introduced to the word, ask them how they would define a habitat? What is a habitat? Can they name any habitats and what they provide for the organisms that live there?

Invite learners to explore the Habitat Heroes illustrations. This could be with small groups each looking at a different habitat, or as a class together – depending on where you deliver this activity, these could be displayed on a screen or printed and handed out.

Ask learners to look closely at the different scenes, and prompt them to point out differences, similarities, or name living things they can see. Keep reading for some suggestions.

### Green Skills



### Suitable for

Early Years  
Key Stage 1  
Key Stage 2  
Key Stage 3  
Key Stage 4

### Location

Outdoors

### Season

Spring  
Summer

### What you'll need

Habitat Heroes illustrations  
Smartphones or tablets with internet connection  
Optional: Habitat Heroes prompt sheets, clipboards and pencils

### Key vocabulary

Habitat  
Names of different habitat types  
Names of wildlife and plants

### Support and extension opportunities

After getting familiar with the habitat types and what you might already have, you're ready to [map your site on the Nature Park map](#) using the habitat flowcharts and online tool.

Encourage learners to think about how wildlife might experience your outdoor space, with [Points of view](#).

[Create models](#) of the different habitats on your site - learners could split into groups and model a different habitat area, before combining them to create your whole site!



## Step by step (continued)

- *Can you find all of the living things (plants and animals) in this scene? Do you know what they are? (Learners could circle them, and write their names if they know them)*
- *What kind of place / habitat do you think this is? What would you call it?*
- *What are the similarities and differences between these scenes? (e.g. the features and types of living things)*
- *Have you seen a place like this before? Have you seen any of these living things or plants before?*

## Part 2

Exploring your outdoor space, ask learners to think about the habitats they have just seen, and whether they have any spaces like this around their site.

Using the Habitat Heroes survey on a smartphone or tablet, or the printable prompt sheets, learners will be prompted to find 'a place that is good for': bumblebees and butterflies, birds, worms, spiders, frogs, hedgehogs, or slugs and snails. Remind learners that it's okay if they can't find the living thing itself – we are looking for places the wildlife might enjoy or usually be found!

Learners can then add a photo of the space they've found to the survey. If using the prompt sheets, learners may wish to draw a picture of the space they have found on the reverse, or on a plain sheet of paper. The KS2 survey and prompt sheet includes additional questions about the space. For younger groups, you may wish to discuss these questions as a class instead.

## Reflection

These discussion prompts can help you to reflect on what you found together, and how you could use this information to help you in your Nature Park journey:

- *Did you see any living things in these places? If you didn't, why might that be?*
- *Were there any places for wildlife you couldn't find?*
- *What could we do to improve these places for wildlife?*
- *What would you do in this place? Is it a place you'd want to spend time in?*

Once you've completed the challenge, download and print our [Habitat Heroes certificates](#) to recognise learners' findings, and social media posts to share your participation!

In your next session, remember to [explore the map](#) to see your contributions, and take a look at what others have discovered around the country!



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