

Education Programme

Habitats and living things



Introduction

There are many different habitats around the world.

Grasslands

Deserts

Mountains

Forests

Rainforests

Oceans

Birds and animals are specially adapted to live in each of these different environments. Birds eat different things in different places, for example some might live in forests and eat only insects. Others live out in the ocean and eat only fish. Some bird species have very broad wings as they spend most of their time soaring above mountains.

Question 1: What is a habitat?

Question 2: Why are plants and flowers important to birds?

Question 3: Why are hedgerows and hedges important for birds?

Question 4: Why are lawns important for birds?

Question 5: Why are ponds important for birds?

Question 6: Why are gardens important for birds?

Question 7: What do birds need to survive?



Task 1

Can you complete the 7 life processes?

M		All living things move, even plants
R		Getting energy from food
S		Detecting change in the surroundings
G		All living things grow
R		Make more living things of the same type
E		Getting rid of waste
N		Taking in and using food



Task 2

Can you explain how birds carry out MRSRGREN?

M =		
R =		
S =		
G =		
R =		
E =		
N =		

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Task 3

Investigating Habitats



Look at the habitat outside your window.

Are there any trees?

Are there any hedges?

Are there any flowers?

Is there any water?

Are there any birds?

Why do you think there are/are not any birds outside your window?

What habitat is this?



What habitat is this?



What habitat is this?



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Task 4

Put a cross in the box to show where these creatures live (some might live in more than one place)

	Sea	Uplands (mountains)	Woodland
Example: Mining Bee		X	X
Cranefly			
Worm			
Fish			
Manx Shearwater			
Butterfly			
Rabbit			
Woodlice			
Hen Harrier			
Squid			
Caterpillar			
Beetle			
Long tailed Tit			
Starfish			
Spiders			

Task 5

Complete the questions below.

Why is the Sea important to birds?

Circle the birds you think would live out at sea.



Gannet



Fulmar



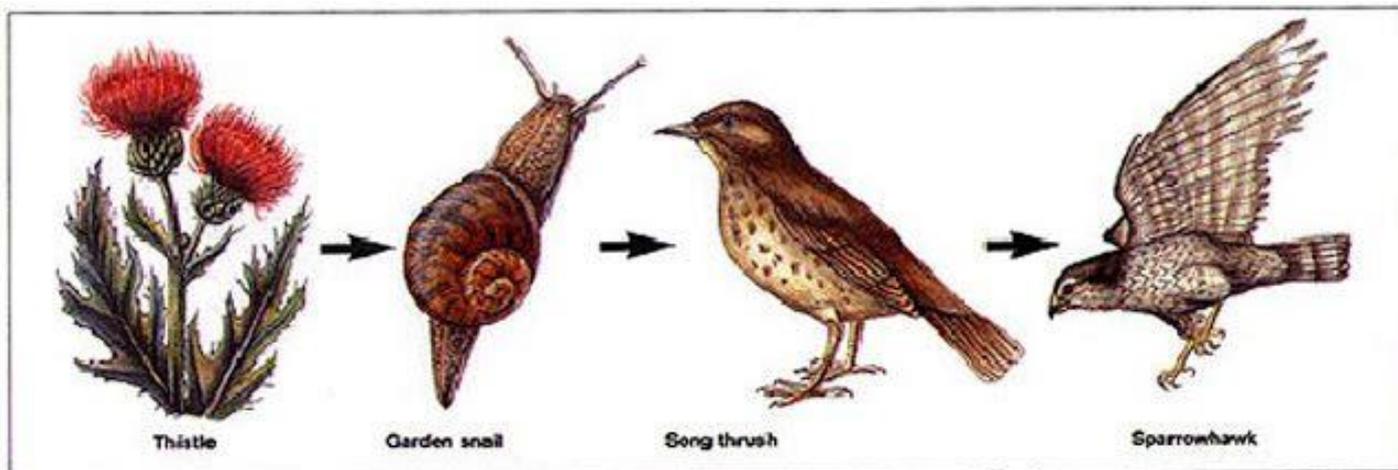
Puffin



Robin

Task 6

Birds depend upon the habitats where they live. Below is a food chain of a Sparrowhawk.



What would happen to the garden snail if the Song Thrush disappeared?

What would happen to the Sparrowhawk if the Song Thrush disappeared?



Answers

Question 1: What is a habitat?

It is the place where birds or animals live.

Question 2: Why are plants and flowers important to birds?

They provide food for small insects which the birds eat.

Question 3: Why are hedgerows and hedges important for birds?

They provide food for small insects which the birds eat. They also provide shelter for birds and somewhere they can build their nests.

Question 4: Why are lawns important for birds?

Lawns provide a habitat for small creatures such as beetles and ants which the birds eat. There is also soil underneath the grass which is home to worms. Many birds like to eat worms.

Question 5: Why are ponds important for birds?

A pond provides water for birds to drink.

Question 6: Why are gardens important for birds?

Gardens provide lots of different food sources for birds. They provide natural food for them, like seeds from plants and bushes, they provide a place for insects to live, which the birds eat and also they provide shelter for birds. If humans put out food for the birds, this gives the birds another reason to live near the garden.

Question 7: What do birds need to survive?

Food, water, shelter

Task 1 Answers

M	Movement	All living things move, even plants
R	Respiration	Getting energy from food
S	Sensitivity	Detecting change in the surroundings
G	Growth	All living things grow
R	Reproduction	Make more living things of the same type
E	Excretion	Getting rid of waste
N	Nutrition	Taking in and using food

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Task 2 Answers

M =	Movement	All birds move. Most birds fly.
R =	Respiration	All birds release energy
S =	Sensitivity	Birds are sensitive to temperature, to light, to movement, they are sensitive to disturbance and scare easily. They are sensitive to what is going on around them in case predators are near.
G =	Growth	When the egg is laid, the baby bird starts to grow inside the egg. The bird eventually hatches out the egg and continues to grow until it becomes an adult. The feathers on the bird grow.
R =	Reproduction	All female birds lay eggs
E =	Excretion	Birds produce waste inside their bodies and get rid of this when they go to the toilet!
N =	Nutrition	All birds eat to keep them alive. They have to eat things that will give them enough energy to survive. Some birds change their diets throughout the year, eating insects in spring and summer and eating berries, nuts and seeds in the cooler winter months.

Task 3 Answers

- Habitat 1: Ocean
 Habitat 2: Mountains/Uplands
 Habitat 3: Forest/Woodland

Task 4 Answers

	Sea	Uplands (mountains)	Woodland
Example:		X	X
Mining Bee			
Crane fly		X	X
Worm		X	X
Fish	X		
Manx Shearwater	X		
Butterfly		X	X
Rabbit		X	X
Woodlice			X
Hen Harrier		X	
Squid	X		
Caterpillar			X
Beetle		X	X
Long tailed Tit			X
Starfish	X		
Spiders		X	X



Task 5 Explanations and Answers:

Why is the Sea important to birds?

Some birds spend all their lives out at sea, apart from when they come to the shore to make their nest and lay their egg. Sea birds are specially adapted to live their lives in the sea. They have big wide webbed feet to help them swim, they have wings that are specifically shaped for gliding and soaring and they have special waterproof feathers to keep them dry and warm.

The sea provides birds with **food** and somewhere **safe** away from **predators**. It also provides areas for **resting**. Many birds after they have raised their chicks need to moult their feathers. This means they lose their feathers, a bit like strands of your hair coming out. When they do this, some birds cannot fly very well. Sea birds do this in the sea so they are safe. They just bob around on the surface of the sea for a few weeks until their feathers grow back!

The birds which live out at sea are:

Gannet, Fulmar, Puffin.

Task 6 Answers

What would happen to the garden snail if the Song Thrush disappeared?

The snail population would increase. The amount of thistles would eventually decrease because there were too many snails and eventually many of the snails would die because of lack of food.

What would happen to the Sparrowhawk if the Song Thrush disappeared?

The Sparrowhawk would have to either find a new food source in its current habitat or it would have to find a new habitat.