A woodland habitat: answers and notes

What your child practised: what a habitat is, how a woodland gives living things food, water and shelter, and how they depend on each other (Year 2 science).

Page 1 · Warm up

Owl, **squirrel** and **fox**. Camels live in deserts, polar bears in the Arctic, penguins in the southern half of the world.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check each animal has a food, water and shelter, e.g. a hedgehog: beetles and worms, puddles, a pile of leaves.

Page 2 · A. Shelters

owl → **hole in a tree** · rabbit → **burrow** · squirrel → **drey (nest)** · woodlouse → **under a log**

Page 3 · B. Food, water or shelter?

Food: **berries, acorns** · Water: **stream, puddle** · Shelter: **burrow, nest**

Page 3 · C. No trees

They would lose their **food** (acorns and nuts) and their **shelter** (dreys in the trees).

Challenge: No. A place to sleep is only the **shelter**. A habitat also gives an animal its **food** and **water**. A squirrel sleeps in its drey but finds food all over the woodland.

Watch out for

- **"A habitat is a house."** It is a whole natural place, like a woodland or a pond.
- **Forgetting plants.** Plants have habitats too: the oak tree needs the woodland's light and rain.
- **One-way thinking.** Trees feed squirrels, and squirrels plant new trees by burying acorns.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Habitat spotting:** on a walk, find a tree, hedge or pond. "Who might live here?"
- **Riddles:** "I sleep in a hole in a tree and hoot at night. Who am I?" (an owl)
- **In the game:** Chapter 3, The right home, helps a polar bear, a camel and a frog find a habitat that suits them.