Big homes, tiny homes: answers and notes

What your child practised: saying what a habitat and a microhabitat are, and sorting big homes, like a wood or a pond, from tiny homes inside them, like under a stone (Year 2 science).

Page 1 · Warm up

Micro means **very small**.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Under stones and leaves is usually **damp and dark**, with the most minibeasts.

Page 2 · A. Habitat or microhabitat?

Habitats: a wood, a pond, the seashore.
Microhabitats: under a stone, inside a flower, in a pile of dead leaves.

Page 3 · B. Match them

under a log → **a wood**
on a water lily leaf → **a pond**
in a rock pool → **the seashore**

Page 3 · C. Fill the gaps

1. **habitat** 2. **microhabitat**
3. **microhabitat** 4. **habitat**

Page 3 · D. Draw

Any tiny home with a minibeast that could live there, like a woodlouse under a stone.

Challenge: No. A wood is big (you can walk all the way round it), so it is a **habitat**. The tiny homes inside it, like under a log or on tree bark, are **microhabitats**.

Watch out for

- **Calling a big place a microhabitat**, like a wood or a pond. Ask "Could you walk all the way round it?" If yes, it's a habitat.
- **Calling a tiny home a habitat**, like under a log. Add: "It's a very small habitat, so it's a microhabitat."
- **Thinking only animals have habitats.** Plants live in habitats too: moss grows on logs, water lilies grow in ponds.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Big or tiny?** Take turns to name a place (a beach, a crack in a wall, a field). The other says "habitat!" or "microhabitat!"
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Under logs and stones, lifts logs and stones to find and name the minibeasts living in these tiny homes.