

Year 4 Science - Living Things and Their Habitats

KEY VOCABULARY	
organisms	Another word that can be used to mean 'living things'
habitat	The specific area or place in which particular animals or plants may live
environment	An environment contains many habitats and these include areas where there are both living and non-living things.
endangered	A plant or animal where there are not many of their species left and scientists are concerned that the species may become extinct
extinct	When a species has no more members alive on the planet, it is extinct .
classification	This is where plants or animals are placed into groups according to their similarities.
vertebrates	Animals with a backbone
invertebrates	Animals without a backbone
specimen	A particular plant or animal that scientists study to find out about its species
characteristics	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species

Life Processes

To stay alive and healthy, all living things need certain conditions that let them carry out the seven **life processes**:

Movement	Growth
Respiration	Reproduction
Sensitivity	Excretion
	Nutrition

Plants and animals rely on the **environment** to give them everything they need. Therefore, when **habitats** change, it can be very dangerous to the plants



Changes to an **environment** can be natural or caused by humans. Changes to an **environment** can have positive as well as negative effects. Here are some examples of things that can change an **environment**.

- Natural*
- earthquakes
 - storms
 - floods
 - droughts
 - wildfires
 - the seasons

- Human-Made*
- deforestation
 - pollution
 - urbanisation
 - the introduction of new animal or plant species to an **environment**
 - creating new nature reserves

FOOD CHAINS

Producer

Produced from an energy source (e.g. the sun) such as plants.



Consumer

Eats the producer. (Secondary consumers eat the primary consumer.)



Decomposer

Feeds by decomposing the remains of living things.



Predators hunt and eat other animals.

Prey are hunted by predators.