

What is a habitat?

The Earth is home to many living and nonliving things. The place where plants and animals live is called a **habitat**.

Living things need food, water, shelter, and space to survive. Plants and animals get these basic needs from their habitats.



Two-toed sloth

Habitats can be on land or in water.

Water and land habitats support living things in different ways. Both habitats provide food, space, and shelter for the plants and animals that live there.

Beaver's dam, Ohio River

Habitats can be diverse.

A habitat may have many different kinds of plants and animals.

Diversity is how many different kinds of plants and animals live in an area.

Tropical rainforests and coral reefs are the most diverse habitats on earth.



Blue poison dart frog

There are many different kinds of habitats found on Earth. They each have special plants and animals that live there.



Land Habitats

Deserts, forests, grasslands, and tundras are land habitats. They each have different climates. Some are hot and dry while others are rain-soaked or even frozen. Each habitat provides unique kinds of food and shelter that the plants and animals who live there need.



Cactus wren nesting in Silver Cholla cactus, Arizona desert

Water Habitats

Over 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water. Nearly all of that is salt water from oceans and seas. Water habitats, also called marine habitats, can be very different from each other depending on their location and how warm the water is. Like all habitats, water habitats provide food, shelter, and space for the plants and animals that live there.

