



The
Rivers
Trust

Lesson 4

What is a habitat?

With thanks to:



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Starter Task: Find the “odd one out” in each row

1

a)



b)



c)



2

a)



b)



c)



3

a)



b)



c)



Why have you chosen this image as the “odd one out?”

Know:

What a habitat is

Understand:

Why a river makes a good habitat for animals

Apply:

Identify the factors that make a river habitat good and bad



Habitats:

A river is an otter's habitat, but what is a habitat?



How are the living things in this image adapted to this habitat?



The natural environment where an animal or plant lives

Habitats:



Sort the following into things that animals need to survive and thrive. Explain your choice.
(Hint: some may not fit in either)



Food

Water

Varied diet

Need to survive	Need to thrive

Shelter/A place to hide

Electricity

Air

Somewhere to wash

Space to move around

Friends



CHALLENGE Would your answers be the same for humans?

Habitats:

Sort the following into things that animals need to survive and thrive: **Answers-**

Need to survive	Need to thrive
Food , as animals must eat to get nutrition	Space to move around
Water for cleaning, for drinking, and maintaining body temperature	Varied diet to enhance nutrition and to suit their specific digestion system e.g. some animals only eat plants and others only meat
Air to breathe	Friends to help support growth and development and protect from predators
Shelter from weather and predators	Somewhere to wash for hygiene, reduce their chance of disease

River Habitats:



Can you spot any habitat features, inside and outside of the river?

CHALLENGE How is the habitat inside a river different from the habitat outside the river?



Inside the river

Outside the river

River Habitats: Good and bad

This river might not be the best habitat for animals and plants.



What can we do to reduce these impacts on the river habitat?

Use the image to help you work out what might be causing problems for the river habitat.



River Habitats: Good and bad

Scout thinks that this river might not be the best habitat for animals and plants.

Manure from livestock runs into the river

Chemicals sprayed on crops run off into river

Pollution from cars and tractors runs into the river

Litter and sewage from towns can make its way into the river

Building roads and towns removes land that water can sink into (soil). Water runs off the hard surfaces into rivers quicker which can cause flooding

Manmade structures can prevent fish moving between places





True or false?



1. Rivers make good homes for plants and animals



5. All river animals eat the same food

2. Animals can survive without air



6. Trees and plants near rivers can provide shade and shelter to animals



3. Animals need water to survive



4. People can help protect river habitats



For each false statement, can you correct it and explain why it is false?



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