

# Lesson Plan 2

# Habitats

## CRITICAL OUTCOMES

**CO #3:** Organise and manage oneself and one's activities responsibly and effectively.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**LO #2:** The learner will know and be able to interpret and apply scientific, technological and environmental knowledge.

### Process skills:

Observation and Recall

Comprehension and Understanding

## ASSESSMENT STANDARD

Recalls meaningful information when needed

## TEACHING THE LESSON

Review habitat background information found on page 11 before starting the lesson.

Introduce the terminology of habitat where an animal live. With learner input draw up a list of all the things they need within their home (a home is bigger than a house, it includes where they live and the things they need to survive such as food, water, and fuel sources). Allow them to write anything that comes to mind such as TV, toys, water, bed etc. Learners are therefore encouraged to think about things they do, or need to use every single day. Discuss the difference between a need (water) and a want (coca cola) and using two columns on the board labelled need and want, place all the previous suggestions under the correct heading with the learners' input. This will lead you into the four common needs food, water, shelter, space.

Then have the students write up a list of the animals in their neighbourhood (bird, dog, insect etc). Have them identify what they need to survive and where in the neighbourhood they live. Hand out an animal sheet to groups of learners, to cut out the animals and place them together on a blank sheet of paper according to habitat similarities. Label the blank sheet with a title suggesting the habitat: ]

- in the house  
- tree

- wetland  
- open field

**ANSWER KEY –** (These are just possible answers, accept the learners' version if can explain logically why they placed an animal in a particular habitat.)

Bird - Tree  
Scorpion - Open field  
Cat - House  
Tortoise - Open Field  
Lizard - Open Field

Frog - Wetland  
Dog - House  
Squirrel - Tree  
Mouse - House, open field  
Beetle - Tree, Open Field

Alternatively the learners could just write on a separate sheet of paper in columns labelled with the different habitats, the names of the animals found on the habitat sheet under the appropriate heading. This way you can reuse your copies of the sheet for subsequent classes.

Lastly have the students identify what a cheetah needs in order to survive in its habitat. Discuss the differences and similarities between the learners' environment and the cheetah's. This will emphasise that all living things have the same requirements. Discuss whether this would lead into conflict/competition between species if they all have similar needs.





## ACTIVITY 1 - classifications of a habitat

Bring in a rotten log from the school yard and start a discussion as to whether the log has the requirements to be classified as a habitat. This is just an introduction that habitats can be of varying sizes and well as different depending on the life phase of a particular species.



## ASSESSMENT

1	2	3	4
Learner was unable to associate the rotten log with the requirements for a habitat.	Learner could only partially predict that the rotten log was a habitat.	Learner achieved the assessment standard using previous knowledge to logically explain why the rotten log can be called a habitat.	Learner exceeded expectations showing increased understanding of habitat requirements.

## BACKGROUND

### What is a habitat?

All living things need a home, or habitat in which to live. A habitat is the environments, or place, in which the animal lives throughout its life. These range from mountain peaks to ocean bottoms, forests to deserts. Each animal is specially adapted to live in certain habitats. People also have habitats; this is bigger than just the house in which we live. It includes the entire environment that we come in contact with. Where we go to school, shops or on holiday that is still our habitat.

### What do animals need from their habitat?

A habitat provides the four basic needs that all animals share: food, water, space and shelter. Food and water supply us with the energy we need to live. Shelter protects from the weather and enemies. All animals need space in which to find their food, water and shelter. If there is not enough space for the living things within a habitat this means that there will not be enough resources for those animals to survive. Due to their speed, cheetah need to live in open spaces, such as grassland, savannahs, woodlands, bushlands etc, where they have the space for a high speed sprint without risking running into obstacles. They prefer to live in areas with low populations of competing predator species such as lion, leopard, baboon, hyena etc. This generally means that they live outside of protected areas where the populations of other predator species are usually high.





**ANIMAL SHEET**

