

What is a Habitat?

A habitat is where an animal or plant lives. An animal or plant must be able to obtain food, have shelter and have young in the place where it lives.

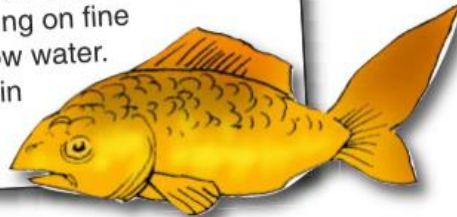
The Tiger

Tigers are only found in Asia. They live in rocky mountain areas, swampy plains and in thick forests. They seek shelter in long grass or caves during the heat of the day. They hunt wild pigs, deer and buffalo. The tigress looks after her cubs until they are two years old.



The Goldfish

Goldfish originally came from China but many are now kept in the UK in fish tanks or ponds. They eat common duckweed or dried fish food. The females lay their eggs in spring on fine leaved plants found in shallow water. The young, called fry, hatch in about three days.



The Kestrel

Kestrels hover in the air before dropping at speed to capture voles, shrews and mice for food. They use sticks and straw to make a nest in a hole in a tree or on a cliff ledge. Eggs take twenty eight days to hatch. Both adults feed the young birds for about thirty days.



The Cactus

There are hundreds of different cacti, but they all have one thing in common. They are able to grow in hot desert climates. Cacti can do this because they store water in their fleshy stems. They are covered with prickly spines instead of leaves and make their own food with help from the sun.



What is a Habitat?

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Tigers are only found in

- 1 **Africa.** **Asia.** **Europe.** **America.**

The tigress looks after her cubs for

- 2 **one** **two** **three** **four**

years. Goldfish eat common duckweed or

- 3 **wet** **dried** **soggy** **mushy**

fish food. The kestrel eats voles, shrews and

- 4 **rats.** **snakes.** **spiders.** **mice.**

Cacti grow in hot

- 5 **sandy** **rocky** **desert** **mountainous**

climates. They make their own food with help from the

- 6 **moon.** **stars.** **sun.** **planets.**

Section B

- 1 What is a habitat?

- 2 What must animals and plants be able to do in the place where they live?

- 3 What is a young goldfish called?

- 4 Where do tigers shelter when it is hot?

- 5 Why do you think many goldfish now live in England?

- 6 Why do you think kestrels 'hover in the air' before capturing their food?

- 7 Why are cacti able to grow in hot desert climates?

Section C

Write a list of things you would need to help a pet survive in your house or garden. You could write about a cat, a dog, a rabbit or any other pet you know about.

Human Habitats

Peta's Dad took her to a building site to help her research how houses are built for her school topic. She talked to Mick the bricklayer, John the carpenter, Eddie the plumber, Alan the electrician and Ed the plasterer.

Peta: So exactly how do you go about building a new house?

Mick: Well the first thing I do is I measure exactly where everything goes. Then I use a mini digger to dig trenches for the foundations and drains. I build small walls in the trenches, lay pipes for the drains and then fill between the walls with concrete for the base.

Peta: All that work and you are still only at ground level!

Mick: After the bricks are delivered, I build walls up to first floor level.

John: Then it's my turn to start work. I put in joists and floorboards to make the upstairs floor.

Mick: Then more bricks are delivered and

laid until I reach the roof.

John: Then I fit the wooden trusses to make the shape of the roof.

Mick: I lay slate or tiles on top of the wood to make the roof waterproof.

John: While Mick is doing that, I fit the outside doors and windows to make the house secure and weather tight.

Alan and Eddie: That's when we start with the first fix.

Alan: I fix wires onto all the internal walls.

Eddie: I fix pipes inside the house.

Ed: And that's when I start to make a mess! No one likes the plasterer when he is doing his job. I flick wet, sloppy plaster on every wall hiding the pipes and wires finally smoothing it over until not a ripple can be seen.

Alan and Eddie: And then we come back for the second fix!

Alan: I have to find the end of every cable that is sticking out of the new plaster and decide which needs a switch, which needs a socket and which needs a light fitting.

Eddie: I have to decide which pipe is for hot water and which is for cold when I fit the baths and the sinks.

John: At the same time I will be fitting the kitchen, the internal doors and the skirting boards.

Mick: And I will be laying paths outside and building garden walls.

Ed: And I will be tiling the bathrooms and the kitchen.

Peta: So who would you say works the hardest on a building site?

Mick, John, Eddie, Alan and Ed together: I do!



Human Habitats

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Peta was finding out how a house is built. She talked to Mick who was a

1 **bricklayer.** **carpenter.** **plumber.** **electrician.**

Mick said he used a mini digger to dig

2 **roads** **holes** **trenches** **paths**

for the foundations. John said he put in

3 **doors** **floorboards** **kitchens** **windows**

to make the upstairs floor. Alan, the electrician, fixed

4 **pipes** **wires** **bricks** **slates**

to the walls. Ed, the plasterer, flicked

5 **soapy** **sloppy** **slushy** **runny**

plaster on every wall. Eddie, the plumber, fitted the baths and

6 **carpets.** **TVs.** **curtains.** **sinks.**

Section B

1 Name the jobs done by these people:

Alan	
John	
Mick	
Eddie	

2 Which tradesman fits doors and windows?

3 Why do you think 'no one likes the plasterer when he is doing his job'?

4 What does the phrase 'until not a ripple can be seen' describe?

5 What is 'the foundation' of a house?

6 What is a 'second fix'?

7 Which tradesman do you think has the hardest job? Give a reason for your answer?

Section C

Draw a plan of your ideal home. Write down what each room would be used for.

The Sett

Curled up, safe and snug,
The cubs sleep entwined,
Safe within their mother's warmth,
Their rhythmic breathing, all as one.

Suddenly their mother starts,
A sudden distant noise wakens her from sleep,
She scurries down a nearby tunnel,
The soil ahead churned by some giant beast.

Outside men's shouts,
A great yellow monster, moves jaggedly,
From side to side, grabbing at earth,
With its iron claws.

She senses danger,
Hurries back to scoop her babies up,
And usher them to safety,
As the monster gets nearer!



The Sett

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

The cubs slept

1 **deeply.** **restlessly.** **together.** **entwined.**

Their mother kept them

2 **awake.** **warm.** **fed.** **playing.**

Suddenly, their mother scurried down a

3 **hill.** **lane.** **road.** **tunnel.**

A great yellow monster

4 **shouts out.** **churns the soil.** **moves jaggedly.**

The mother

5 **senses danger** **runs away** **is frightened**

and hurries back to

6 **play with her babies.** **usher her babies to safety.**

find her babies. **comfort her babies.**

Section B

1 Where were the cubs curled up?

2 What is meant by the phrase 'rhythmic breathing all as one'?

3 What woke the mother?

4 What do you think the phrase 'great yellow monster' refers to?

5 What do you think the 'monster' would be doing?

6 What danger were the cubs in?

7 How did the mother rescue her cubs from danger?

Section C

Write your own poem about an animal in its natural habitat.