

KS1 Science: Animals

What do animals need to survive?

- MADDIE MOATE:** There are all sorts of different animals living around us. These animals need the same four things to survive: air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, and shelter - a place to live. The area where an animal lives is called a 'habitat' and it's important that a habitat provides everything an animal needs to survive. This is a corn snake, its name is Jack Frost.
- CHILD:** A snake is a reptile.
- CHILD:** Reptiles are cold-blooded. Their bodies do not produce any heat.
- CHILD:** You stay in there where it's nice and warm!
- MADDIE:** Corn snakes need the place where they live - their habitat - to be warm. This reptile house is kept warm, so that it's just like Jack Frost's natural habitat in the wild. Let's find out more from an expert.
- YUSSEF:** Hi, I'm Yussef and I'm an animal expert. One of the most important things an animal needs to survive is a habitat. A habitat is a place where an animal lives: it could be something like a hot desert, or even your own back garden. And it provides an animal with all the things they may need. It provides them with food. So if we take a crested gecko, for example, these guys live high up in the trees of rainforests, and they like to eat things like insects and other bugs ... they like to eat juicy fruit, and a rainforest provides them with all of this. It also provides them with leaves and branches and bumpy bark, where they can shelter from bad weather, and it provides them with protection against predators.
- CHILD:** Are there any wild snakes living in the UK?
- MADDIE:** Yes there are! The most common is the grass snake. You can usually find them in England and Wales. Let's find out what makes a good habitat for a grass snake. A good habitat provides everything an animal needs to survive. This grass snake will need to make sure the habitat is just right. It'll want water to drink - but also because grass snakes like to swim. And food - some of its favourite foods live in watery places. And shelter - from Autumn to Spring, grass snakes hibernate, which is like having a very long sleep, so there will need to be somewhere it can shelter through the winter months. So this grassy, wet habitat is ideal for the grass snake!
- CHILD:** This habitat looks a bit different than the last one.
- MADDIE:** That's right! Deer live in forests and on open heathland and moors. This land is perfect for them to graze on as there is plenty for them to eat.

CHILD: They must really like grass!

MADDIE: Yes! Deer eat grass, leaves and sometimes even tree bark. One thing all animals have in common is that to survive, they need to eat food. But animals eat different things depending on what type of animal they are. Some animals eat plants: we call them *herbivores*. Some animals eat other animals: we call them *carnivores*. And some animals eat both: they're called *omnivores*. Ok, let's see if you can remember which is which. Which type of animal only eats other animals?

CHILDREN: Carnivore!

MADDIE: Yes! Our corn snake eats mice, rats, birds and bats; that makes him a carnivore. Wolves and lynx are carnivores that once roamed wild in the UK. But today in the UK, we only find them in zoos and wildlife parks. Can you remember the type of animal that only eats plants?

CHILDREN: Herbivore!

MADDIE: Well done! Herbivores eat things like seeds, fruit, nectar and algae. So, what do we call animals that eat plants and animals?

CHILDREN: Omnivore!

MADDIE: Pigs are omnivores: they eat roots, veg, fruit, eggs, flowers, leaves, worms, and insects. They pretty much eat anything! Humans are also omnivores because humans eat both plants and meat from other animals. But some humans choose to only eat a plant-based diet.

There are so many different animals we share this planet with and all of them depend on their habitats to provide the things they need to survive. Which is why it is so important we look after their habitats and make sure we protect them for the future, so that we can continue to live together with a rich variety of life.