

Explore, review, think, talk....

What do you already know about animals and their habitats? (5 minutes)

A **habitat** is a place where an animal lives, providing it with water, food and shelter.

Many animals have **special features or skills** to help them survive in their habitat. They are **adapted** to live there.

Watch this BBC clip: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/science-ks1-ks2-wonders-of-nature-polar-bears-in-their-habitat/z73ygwx



- Where is a polar bear's den?
- In which habitat do polar bears live?
- How are they adapted to live in their habitat?

- Polar bears live in an Arctic habitat.
- Female polar bears dig out a den beneath the snow, where they give birth to cubs.
- They have thick white fur to keep warm.
- They have webbed front paws and are strong swimmers.







Watch, read, listen...

Animals are adapted to their different habitats (10 minutes)

- Watch this clip about different types of owls.
- Try to jot down the habitats they live in and think about how each owl is adapted to their habitats.
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zv7w2hv



You may have noticed:

- Snowy owls live in the Arctic and have mostly white feathers as camouflage, so their colour blends in with the snow.
- Great grey owls live *in pine forests* and have very thick feathers to keep warm.
- Elf owls live in the hot desert and find holes in cactus plants. They hunt insects at night when it is cooler.
- Flammulated owls live in mountain forests and have feathers which match the pattern of bark on trees for camouflage.



Animals are adapted to their habitats

Describe the adaptations of animals in an Arctic and a hot desert habitat (page 5-6: 30 minutes)

- Many animals have special features or skills so that they are suited to their habitat. These are called adaptations.
- For example, the Arctic fox and the desert fox are different from the foxes we see in the UK.

Watch *the first 2 ½ minutes* of this BBC clip: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/science-ks2-ks3-how-animals-have-adapted/z4y76v4

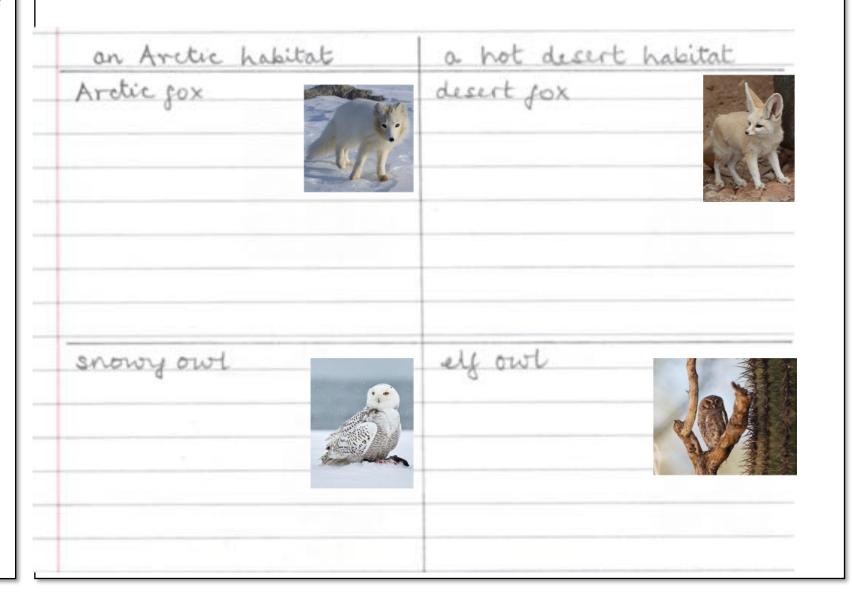
- What special features, or adaptations, does the Arctic fox have?
- What adaptations does the desert fox have?



Create a fact file about the Arctic fox, the snowy owl, the desert fox and the elf owl. Use what you have learnt, the word bank and the pictures to help you.

- large round body and long thick feathers
- small body with grey-brown feathers
- thick warm fur
- white fur in winter
- sandy coloured fur
- mostly white feathers
- small ears
- large ears
- nests on the ground
- nests in holes in cactus plants
- hunts at night

I can describe how some animals are adapted to live in an Arctic habitat or a hot desert habitat.



OPTIONAL - Find out more about Arctic or hot desert habitats

Extend your fact file with more animals who live in an Arctic or a hot desert habitat (30 – 60 minutes)

Choose either an **Arctic** or a **hot desert** habitat. Find out more about the adaptations of other animals living there.



Suggested websites:

Arctic habitat

https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/arctic/

https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/fascinating-facts/polar-bears

https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/fascinating-facts/walrus

hot desert habitat

https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/american-desert/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p006b3m3

Glossary of terms

Environment: The **environment** includes all living and non-living things. Animals and plants rely on the living and non-living parts of the environment to survive.

Habitat: Animals live in a habitat which provides an environment to which they are suited. A habitat provides animals with water, food and shelter.

Condition: Each habitat has different **conditions** such as the amount of light, the temperature and the amount of moisture.

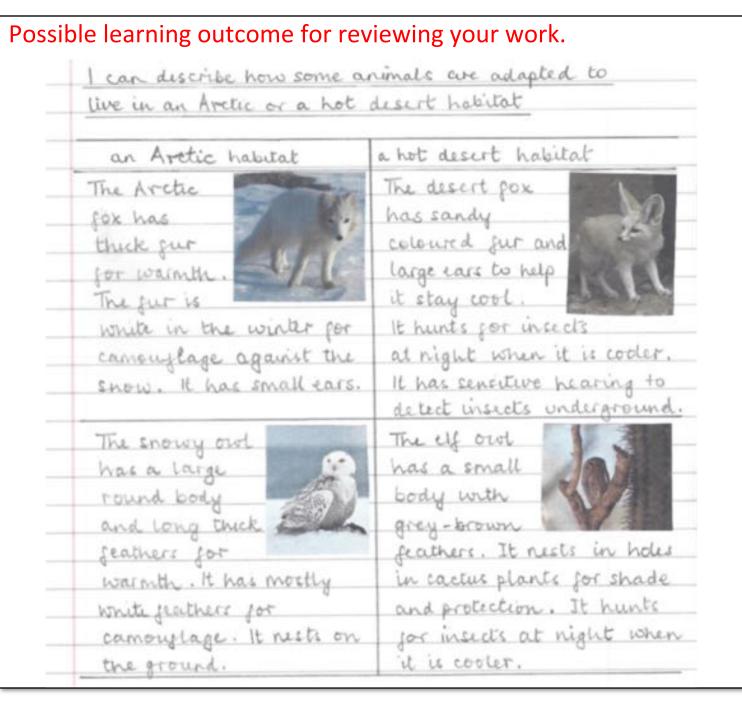
Adaptation: Many animals have special features or skills so that they are suited to their habitat. These are called adaptations.

Adapted: Animals are **adapted** to live in their habitats. For example, an Arctic fox has thick white fur in winter for warmth and **camouflage**.

Camouflage: Some animals have camouflage feathers, fur or skin so they are hard to see in their environment.

The Arctic fox
has thick fur. Its
coat changes
from white in
winter to browngrey in summer
so it is
camouflaged in
both seasons. It
has small ears so
it does not lose
warmth.

The round body shape and thick long feathers help the **snowy owl** to stay warm. The feathers also extend over its feet and beak. It nests on the ground and the chicks huddle together for warmth.



The sandy coloured fur of the desert fox reflects heat during the day and its large ears help it to keep cool. It hunts at night when it is cooler, listening for underground insects with its sensitive hearing.

The **elf owl** has a small body and grey-brown feathers. It can fit into holes in cactus plants to find shade and a safe nesting place. It hunts at night when it is cool and usually eats insects.