

Habitats

A **habitat** is a place where living things, such as animals and plants, can find all of the things they need to survive. This includes food, water, air, space to move and grow and some shelter.

- Some habitats are large, like the ocean, and some are very small, such as under a log.
- Some habitats in our local area include the river and woodlands. Other habitats include the coast and the forest.



ocean



forest



river



pond



coast



desert



woodland



tundra



habitat

Extreme Earth – Term 3



Microhabitats are very small habitats where minibeasts may live.
- Examples of microhabitats include under stones, in grass, under fallen leaves and in the soil.

- Minibeasts that can be found there include worms, snails, ants, centipedes, millipedes, and butterflies and they help to keep the microhabitat healthy.
- Minibeasts are able to survive in their habitats because they can find the things they need to survive there, such as food and water. For example, caterpillars can survive on leaves as they give them food.



log



leaves



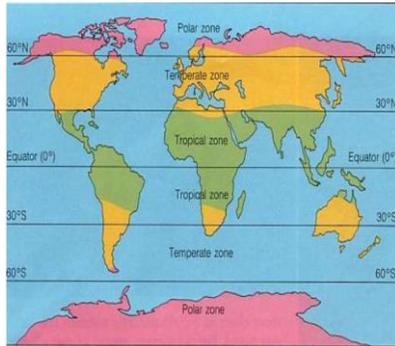
soil



minibeast

Hot and Cold places in the world

Climate Zones are divisions of the Earth's climates into general climate zones according to average temperatures and average rainfall. The three major climate zones on the Earth are the polar, temperate, and tropical zones.



Polar- has the coldest with temperatures almost always below freezing. This is where we find the North and South Poles.

Robert Falcon Scott

- Robert Falcon Scott (6 June 1868 – 29 March 1912) was a Royal Navy officer and explorer who led two **expeditions** to the Antarctic regions: the Discovery expedition of 1901–1904 and the ill-fated Terra Nova expedition of 1910–1913
- He wanted to be the first man to reach the South Pole, in Antarctica.
- On 17 January, they reached the pole, only to find that a Norwegian party led by Roald Amundsen, had beaten them there.
- Robert and his team died of starvation and extreme weather before they could return home.
- Eight months later, a search party found the tent, the bodies and Scott's diary.



VOCABULARY

Arctic – Areas around the North Pole

Antarctic – Areas around the South Pole

Polar – describes places in North and South Pole

Expedition – a journey undertaken by a group of people, often to explore.

Significant – extremely important

Continent – A very large expanse of land. We have 7 continents on Earth.

Explorer – A person involved in exploration.

Equator – the imaginary line that goes around the centre of the globe.

Sprite – an image that is designed to be part of a larger scene.

Animate – to make something move
Habitat – the natural environment in which an animal or plant normally lives or grows.

Microhabitat – a small part of the environment that supports a habitat, such as a fallen log in a forest

7 Continents and 5 Oceans



Facts about the continents (ordered by size)			
Continent	Surrounded by these oceans	Number of countries	Example of a country that can be found there
Asia	Arctic Indian Pacific	50	India
Africa	Atlantic Indian	54	Kenya
North America	Arctic Atlantic Pacific	23	United States of America
South America	Atlantic Pacific	12	Brazil
Antarctica	Southern	-	-
Europe	Atlantic Arctic	51	United Kingdom
Australia	Indian Pacific	14	Australia

Desert Habitats

- Land is called 'desert' if it gets less than 250mm of rain every year.
- One-third of the land on Earth is covered in deserts!
- Deserts can be hot or cold.
- The largest hot desert in the world is the Sahara Desert in Africa – it is 9.4 million square kilometres.
- One of the largest cold deserts in the world is the Gobi Desert in China, which is 1.3 million square kilometres.
- Even though deserts don't get much rain, the desert is a habitat for some plants and animals.
- Each species has adapted to be able to live in a range of temperatures and without much water.
- In deserts, you'll usually see a lot of open soil and rocks and not much grass or other kinds of plants.
- Animals that live in deserts include lizards, geckos, toads, jackrabbits, camels, snakes, spiders and meerkats.



Extreme Earth – Term 3



Polar Habitats

- Polar habitats are located at the very top and very bottom of the Earth. They are cold, windy and have a lot of snow and ice. It's even too cold for trees to grow.
- The northern polar region is called the Arctic, and in the south the polar region is the continent of Antarctica.
- Polar habitats have just two seasons – summer and winter (but even summer is normally very cold). In the summer, it is light for 24 hours a day (right at the north and south Poles, the sun doesn't set for six whole months when it is summer) and in the winter it is dark for 24 hours a day.
- Because it is too cold for trees to grow in arctic habitats, animals find other places to live such as holes in the ground, or in caves made from snow.
- Animals in the arctic also can't rely too much on eating plants. Most are carnivores (they eat meat) and hunt for fish as well as smaller animals.
- Polar habitats get very, very cold – it can get as cold as -50°C in the Arctic, and temperatures in Antarctica have been as cold as -89°C .
- Animals in polar regions have adapted to survive in these extreme conditions. They have thick fur or feathers, blend in with the white snow, or hibernate during the coldest winter months.



Marine Habitats

- Marine habitats include oceans and seas, which both have saltwater.
- Oceans and seas cover over 70% of the Earth's surface.
- Marine habitats have water that contains a lot of salt – we call it saltwater. Oceans, seas and estuaries (where rivers and oceans meet) all have saltwater.
- Waters around the polar regions have fewer species of fish than waters in the tropics (near the equator) and temperate zones.
- Some marine life can be found in very deep places in the ocean – this can be over 5 kilometres down from the surface.
- Creatures who live in marine habitats can breathe underwater (for example, using gills) or can hold their breath for a long time and just come up to the surface every now and then for air.

