

Vocabulary

1 organism	any animal, plant or other living thing	7 polar	area around the North Pole or South Pole
2 species	a group of similar organisms that can breed with one another to produce offspring that can also have offspring of their own	8 arid	a dry and hot environment
3 camouflage	an adaptation that allows animals to blend with their environment	9 desert	an arid place that has less than 25 cm of precipitation (rain, sleet, snow, hail) a year
4 nocturnal	animals that are active at night (most mammals are nocturnal)	10 ecosystem	where living organisms interact with each other and the surrounding environment e.g. a marine ecosystem
5 diurnal	an animal that is active during the day	11 marine	relating to or found in the sea
6 habitat	natural home of an organism	12 echolocation	used by bats, dolphins and other animals to work out the location of objects (including prey) using reflected sound

Key knowledge

A **characteristic** is a feature such as eye colour or hair colour.

Variation – organisms of the same species or type can vary. For example, dogs belong to the same species but vary in colour, height etc

An **adaptation** is a characteristic of an organism that improves its chances of surviving and/or reproducing.