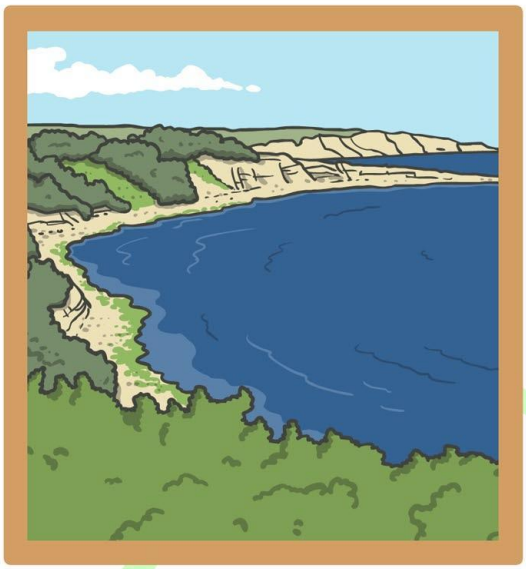
Coastal Habitats Fact Sheet



Because Britain is made up of islands, it has a lot of coastal habitats. These are places where the land meets the sea. Some of these habitats are sandy, some are marshy, and some are high, rocky cliffs. The plants here have adapted to grow in salty, windy conditions. These include samphire, juniper, sea kale, glasswort and marram grass.

Many of the creatures that live in coastal areas survive in rock pools left by the tides, like barnacles, mussels, crabs and starfish. Wading birds like oystercatchers, plovers and sandpipers feed on these creatures, while seabirds like seagulls, kittiwakes, gannets and skuas mainly eat fish from the sea.

Dolphins, porpoises and even whales can be seen in the waters around the coast. Seals and otters spend most of their lives in the sea but come to the land to rest and care for their babies.

Marram grass: Marram grass has lots of roots that form a thick tangle. This helps to hold the sand down and stop it blowing away.

Glasswort: Glasswort has fleshy stems that store water. This prevents the plant from drying out in salty, windy conditions.

Barnacle: Barnacles attach themselves to a hard surface and live there, feeding on tiny creatures that float in the sea water.

Crab: Crabs have hard shells for protection and sharp, strong claws for catching food and burrowing in the sand.

Seagull: Seagulls have a special claw that helps them sit on windy cliffs without being blown off. They are also able to drink seawater, which is too salty for most land animals.

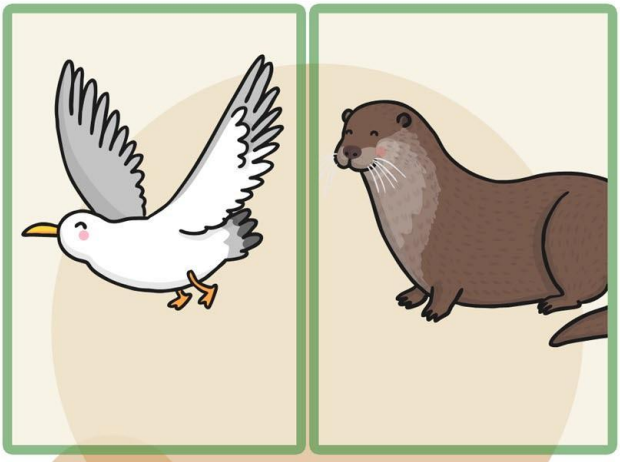
Curlew: Curlews have very long thin beaks for catching small creatures that live below the surface in sandy or muddy ground.

Oystercatcher: These wading birds have long, strong beaks. They use these for breaking open the shells of mussels and cockles so they can eat the creatures inside.

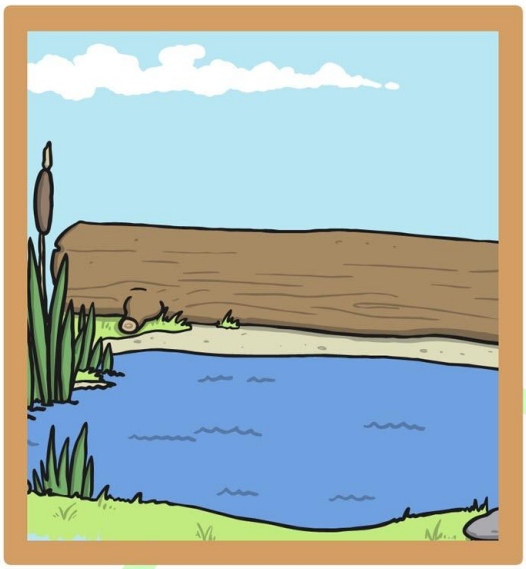
Seal: Seals have strong flippers that they can use for swimming in the sea or for walking on the coast. They can hold their breath for a very long time and dive down deep to catch fish from the sea.

Otter: Otters have thick fur that helps them stay warm in the water. They like to float on their backs with their feet above the water so they can warm themselves in the sun.

Starfish: If a starfish is injured or attacked by another creature it can grow back large parts of its body. This helps it to stay alive.



Pond Habitats Fact Sheet



A pond is a still body of fresh water. Some ponds are man-made and appear in parks and gardens; others are natural dips and hollows in the land that have filled up with water.

Lots of plants and animals live in the water in ponds, and many more live nearby. Some plants like water lilies, hornwort and duckweed live in the water. Other plants like irises and marsh marigolds grow in the damp soil near the pond's edge.

These plants provide food and shelter for worms, slugs, snails, and insects like damselflies, dragonflies, mayflies and water beetles. Amphibians like frogs, toads and newts eat the small creatures, and in turn, these are eaten by mammals like bats and water voles.

Many birds live near the water, including ducks, moorhens and kingfishers.

Common frog: Common frogs have webbed feet for swimming and eyes that appear high on the head for seeing above the water level. Frogs can breathe in or out of water.

Common toad: These toads are covered in many tiny bumps that contain poison to keep predators away.

Newt: Newts like to live near ponds but they spend more time on land than in the water, catching slugs, snails and insects.

Water boatman: These tiny creatures live in water. They have large back legs that look like oars. They use these to help them paddle across the surface.

Dragonfly: Dragonflies are large insects that can be brightly coloured. They have strong wings and large eyes, which they use for catching and eating smaller insects.

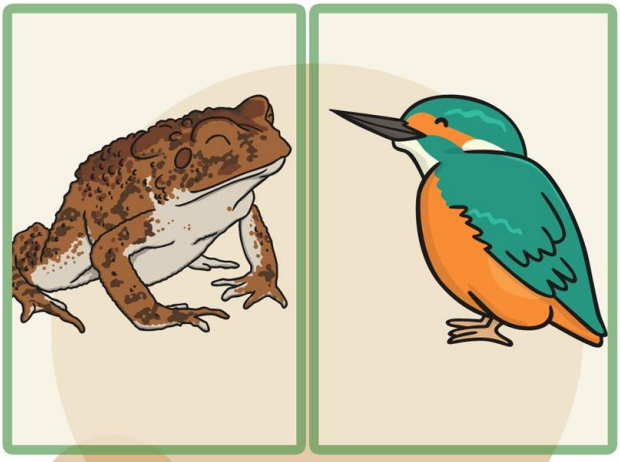
Kingfisher: Kingfishers are bright blue and orange birds. They use their sharp pointed beaks to catch fish.

Duck: Ducks have webbed feet for paddling in the water and waterproof feathers for keeping them warm and dry.

Watermeal: Watermeal is the smallest flowering plant in the world. It floats on top of the water and provides shelter for small pond creatures.

Hornwort: Hornwort grows under the water. It provides oxygen for the fish and other underwater creatures.

Bulrush: This tall plant grows in shallow water and provides shelter for young fish.



Urban Habitats Fact Sheet

Most people in Britain live in an urban habitat. Urban habitats are areas with lots of buildings for people to live and work in. Some of the living things in urban habitats are here because people have put them there. This includes trees, hedges and plants in parks and gardens, and our pets. There are also many living things that grow wild in urban habitats. These plants and animals have found ways to survive alongside all the people that live nearby.

Flowering plants such as nettles, daisies, dandelions and buttercups grow in parks, gardens and hedges. They even grow in abandoned buildings and through cracks in concrete. Many insects, slugs and snails live among the plants.

Some animals, such as squirrels and garden birds, get their food from the trees and hedges that grow in cities. Other animals like foxes, pigeons and rats are able to live in cities because they get most of their food from the waste that people leave behind.

Squirrel: Squirrels eat nuts, berries, buds, shoots and bark. In cities, squirrels take food from bird tables and may nest in the roofs and attics of houses.

Fox: City foxes will sometimes steal waste food from rubbish bins and might live under sheds and garages.

Rat: Rats are very common city creatures. They are able to eat almost any food which makes it easy for them to stay alive in all habitats.

Pigeon: Pigeons like to live in high places, so in cities they build their nests on tall buildings. They eat the food that people leave behind. In some cities, people like to feed the pigeons.

Cat: Many cats living in urban habitats are pets, but some live in the wild. They get most of their food from people but also catch birds, mice, frogs and other small creatures.

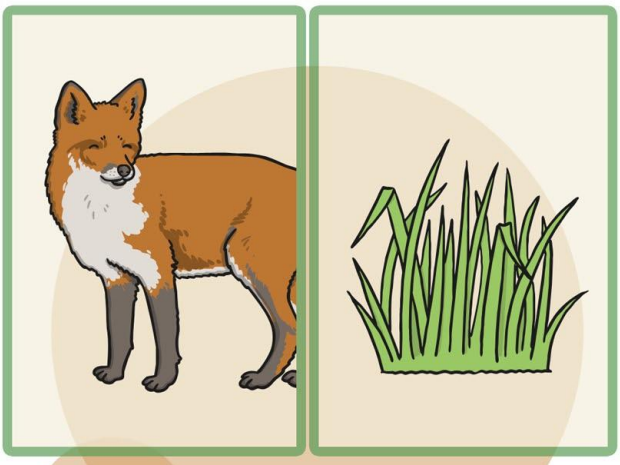
Dandelion: Dandelions have soft, fluffy seeds that float on the air. This lets them spread seeds to a wide area.

House mouse: House mice live in homes and other buildings where they eat any food they can find.

Grass: A lot of the grass in cities is there because it has been planted by people. Grass provides shelter and food for many small creatures.

Slugs and snails: Slugs and snails eat plants and rotting leaves. They are common in gardens and they provide food for birds, hedgehogs and even foxes.

Hedgehog: Hedgehogs eat slugs, snails, worms and insects. Their sharp prickles help to protect them from predators.



Woodland Habitats Fact Sheet

In a woodland habitat there are lots of trees that grow close together. Common trees that grow here include English oak, ash, beech, hawthorn and birch. Most British woodlands are deciduous, which means the leaves fall off the trees in winter. The fallen leaves provide food and shelter for many creatures and rot into the soil, making it rich and full of nutrients.

As well as the fallen leaves, there are shrubs, flowers and grasses beneath the trees. These provide a home for many insects and invertebrates like worms, slugs and snails. The fruit and seeds of the trees, and the small creatures that live among the leaves, provide food for many birds and small mammals such as bats, mice, squirrels, stoats and weasels.

Bigger mammals such as badgers, foxes and deer are common in woodland. There are also beavers, otters, pole cats and wild boar, though these animals are less common.

English oak: The most common tree in the UK, they can grow up to 40m tall and live for over 1000 years.

Ash: Ash trees have an open leaf canopy, which allows the sun to reach the forest floor. This lets many grasses and flowers grow, providing food and shelter for insects.

Birch: Birch trees have very deep roots which bring up nutrients from deep within the soil. When the birch leaves fall, these nutrients help other plants to grow.

Wood mouse: Wood mice gather stores of berries and seeds in the autumn, and hide them in underground burrows to eat during the winter.

Squirrel: Squirrels have powerful back legs and strong claws that help them climb up and down trees.

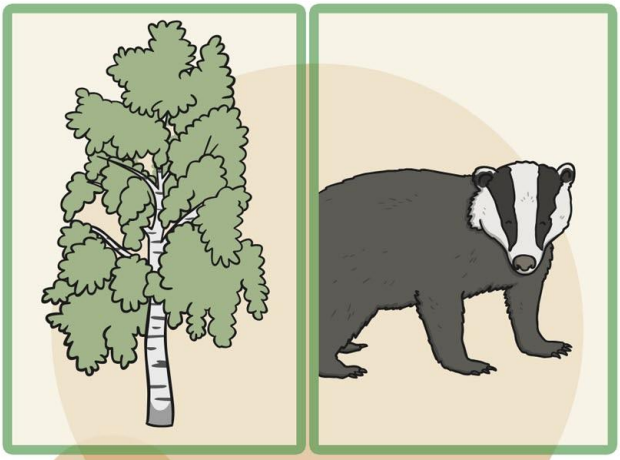
Fox: Foxes have very good hearing, which they use to hunt small creatures. Foxes eat meat and plants. This lets them make the most of all the food that is available.

Wood Louse: Wood lice eat leaves, fruit and rotting wood. They help to break down dead plants so that they can return to the soil.

Badger: Badgers have large, broad paws with long claws to help them dig deep tunnels to live in under the earth.

Owl: Owls sleep during the day and hunt for food at night. Owls have strong beaks and claws. They use these to catch small animals.

Woodpecker: Woodpeckers use their special beaks to drill into trees so they can eat grubs living in the wood.

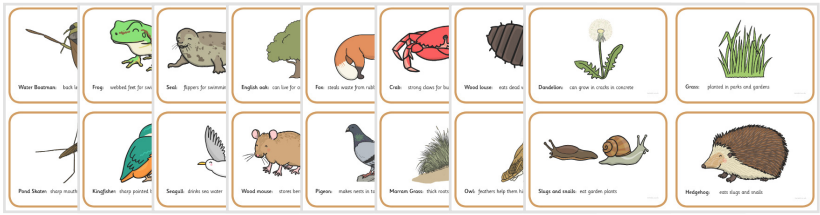


British Habitats Game

Resources

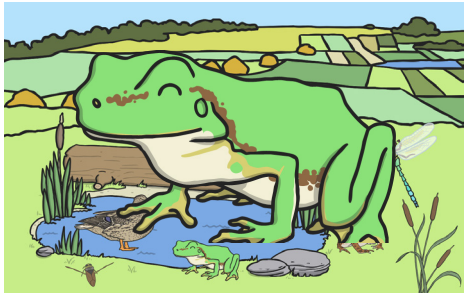
This pack contains:

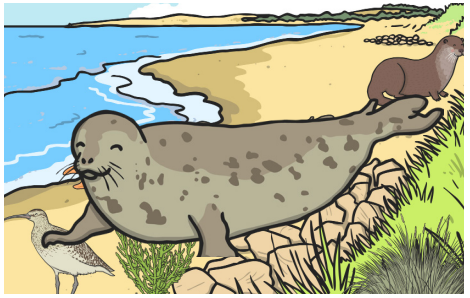
- Four British Habitat Game boards.
- One set of Living Things cards.

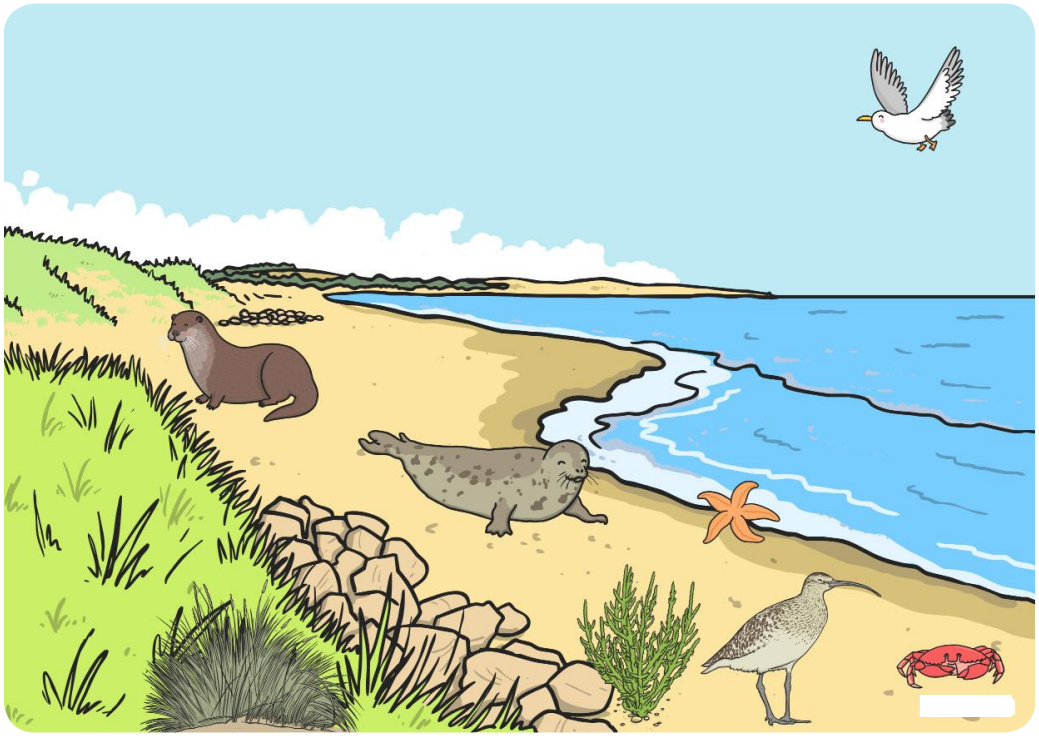


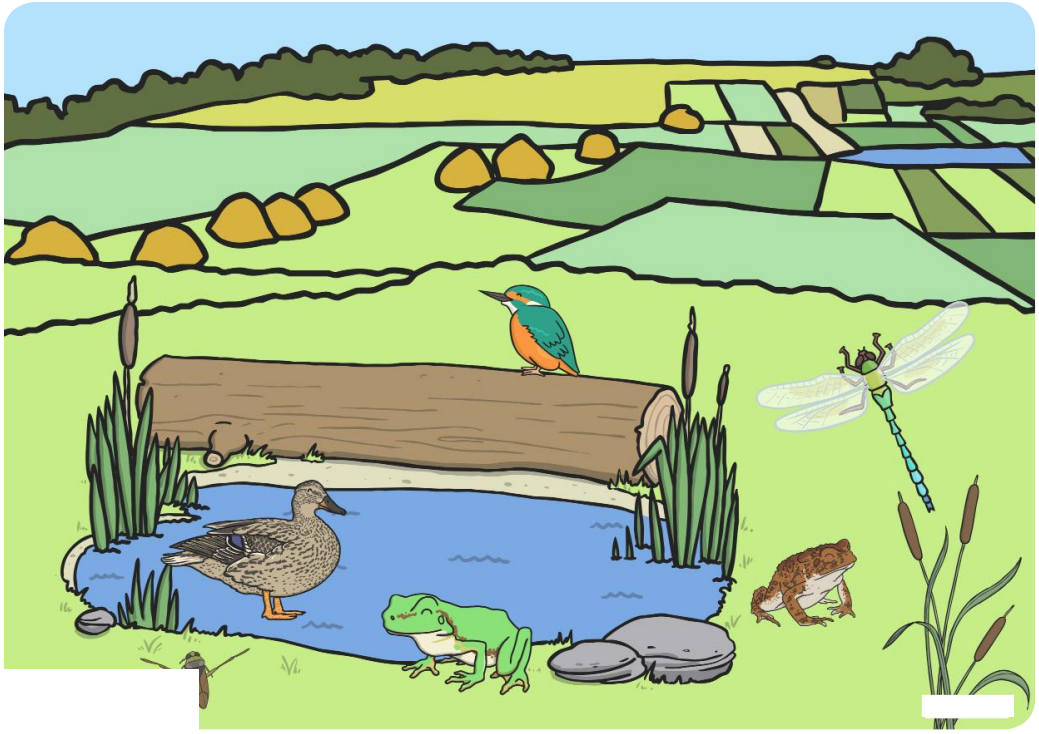
Instructions

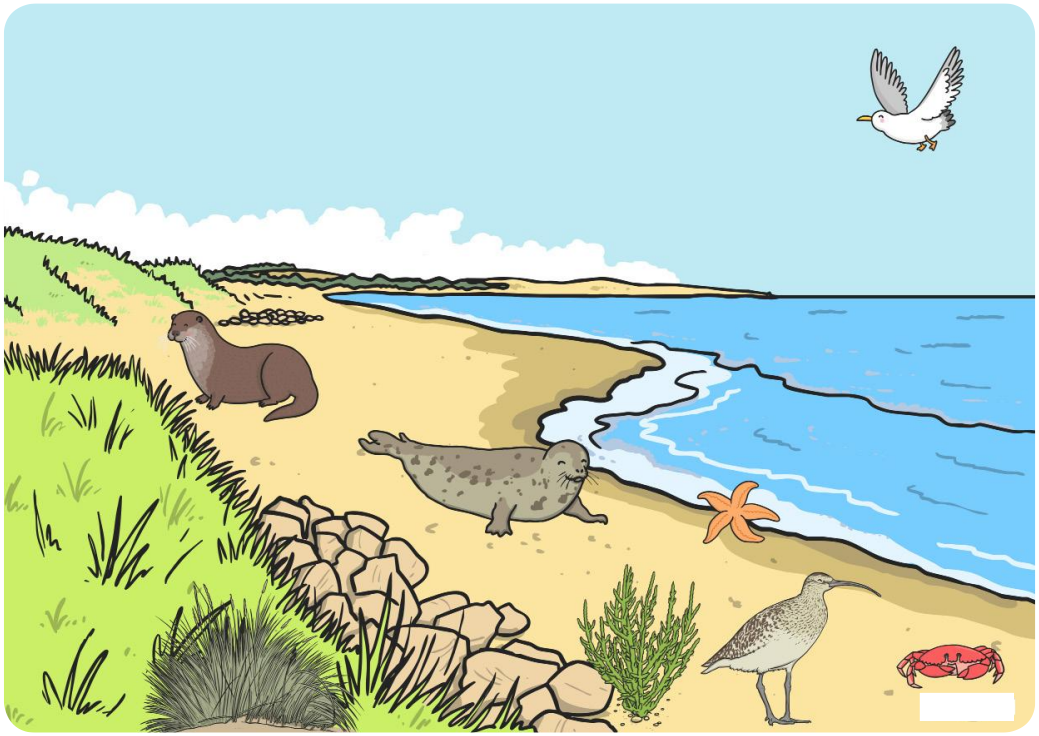
- Give each player a Habitats Board.
- Shuffle the Living Things Cards and place them face down in the centre of the table.
- The youngest player takes the first turn.
- When it is a player's turn, they pick a Living Things Card from the top of the pile and read the name and description of the plant or animal.
- The player decides which habitat the living thing belongs in. If the other players agree that they have the correct answer, the player can keep the card on their Habitats Board.
- If the player has not guessed the right habitat, the card goes to the bottom of the pile.
- If all the players can't agree which habitat a living thing belongs in, the players may ask an adult.
- The first player to get all 8 Living Things Cards in a single habitat wins the game.

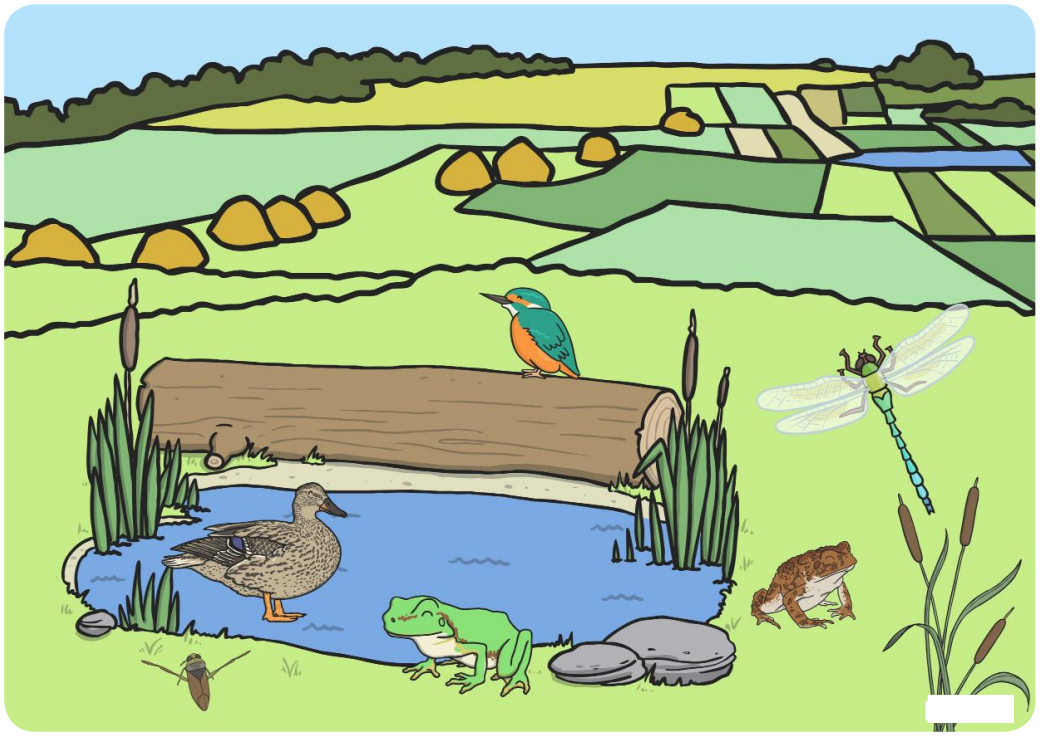


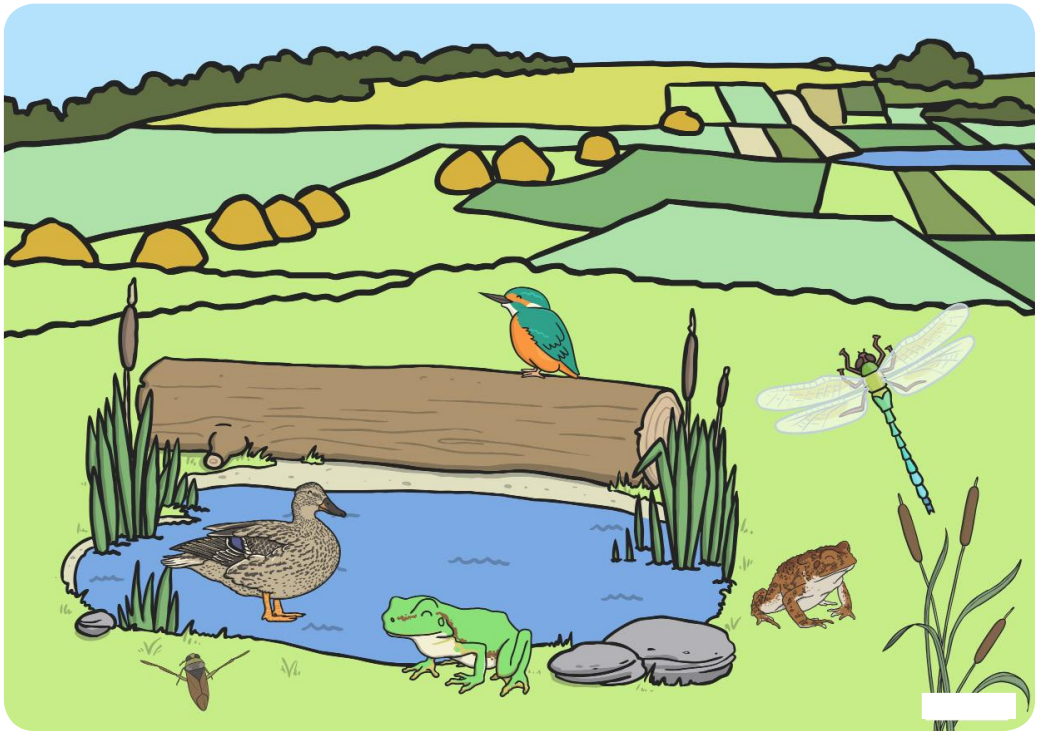


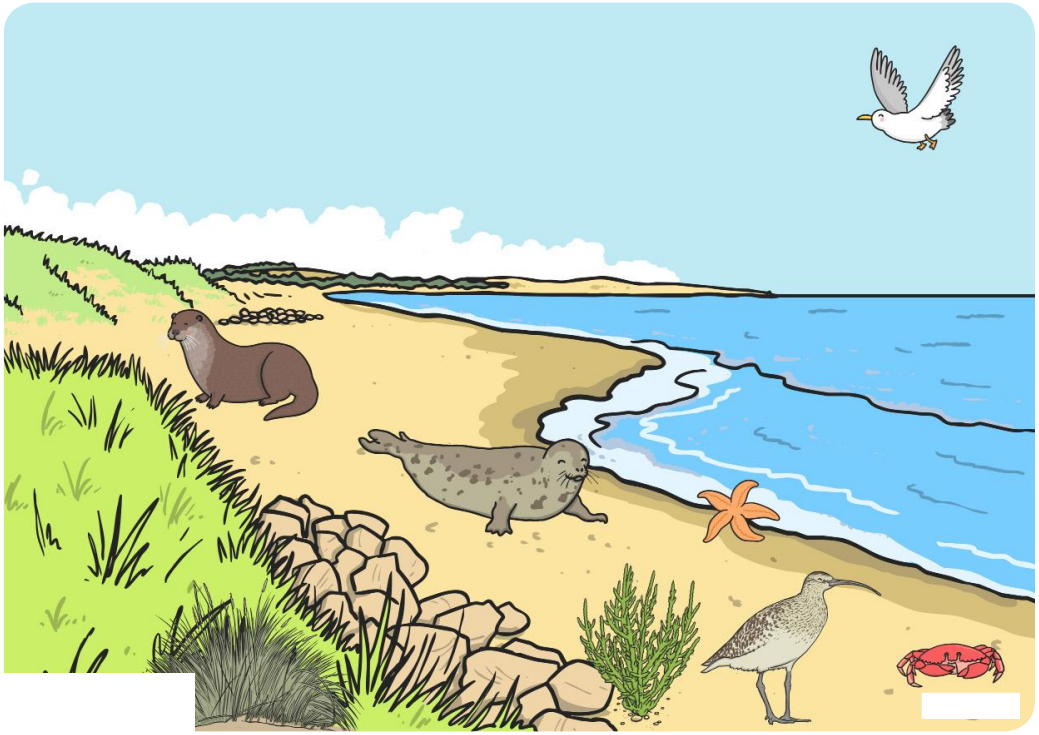


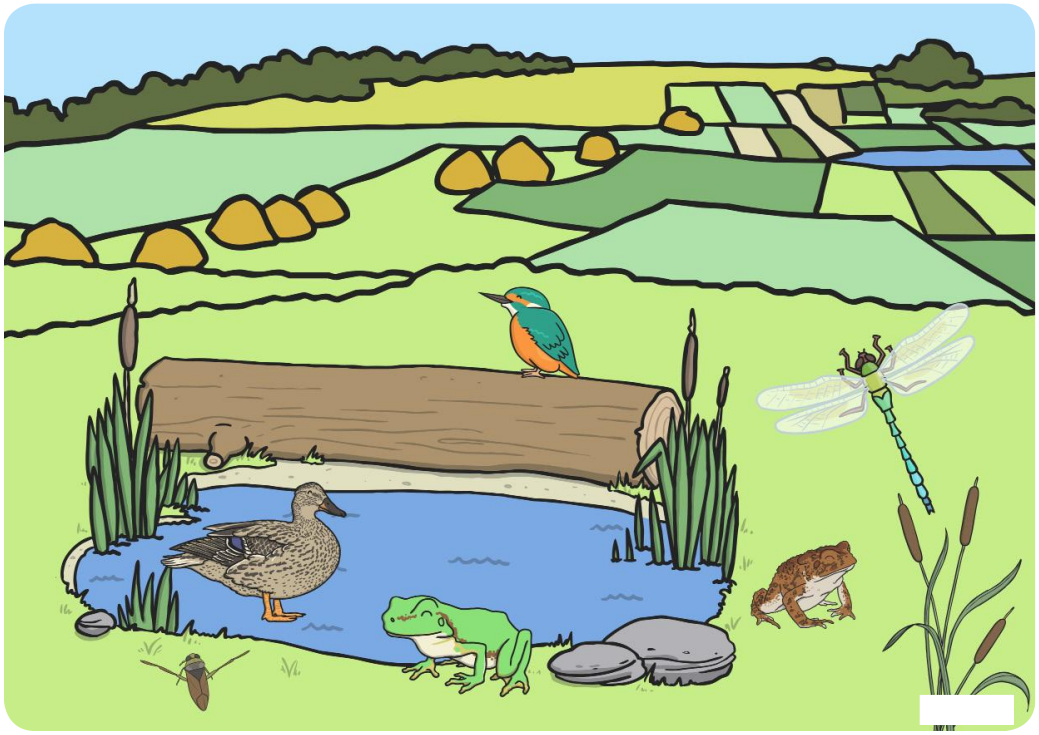


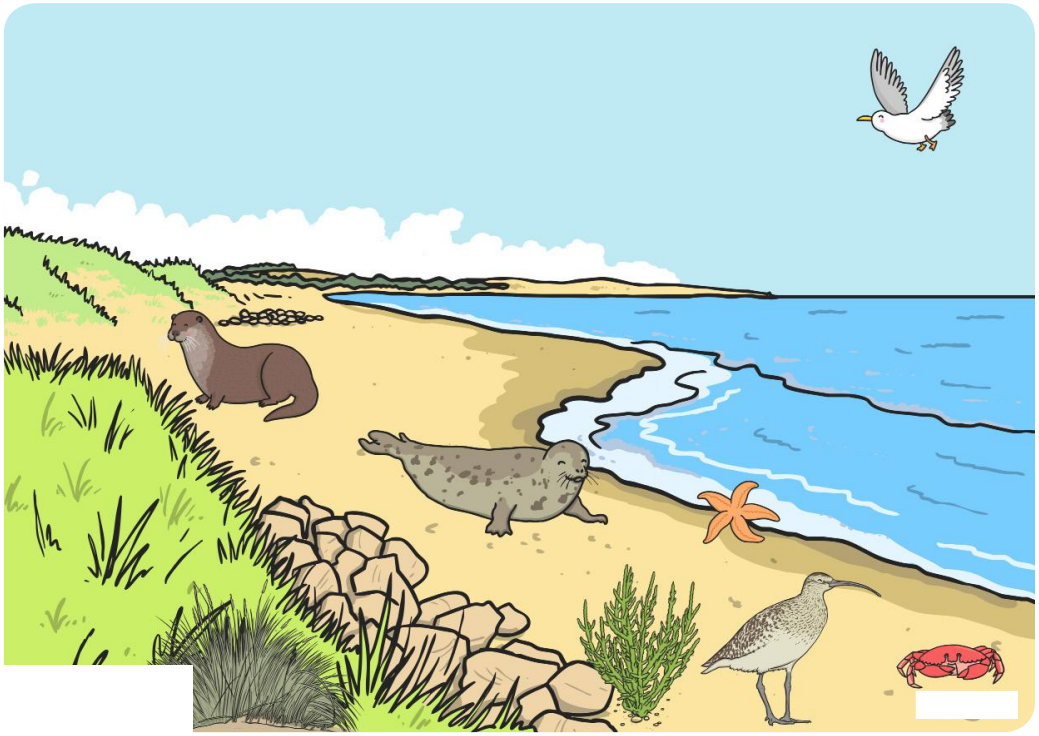






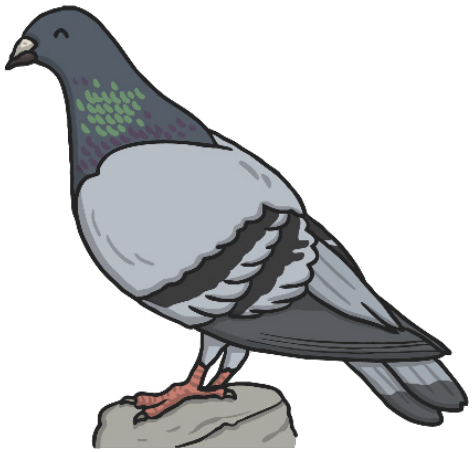






Fox: steals waste from rubbish bins

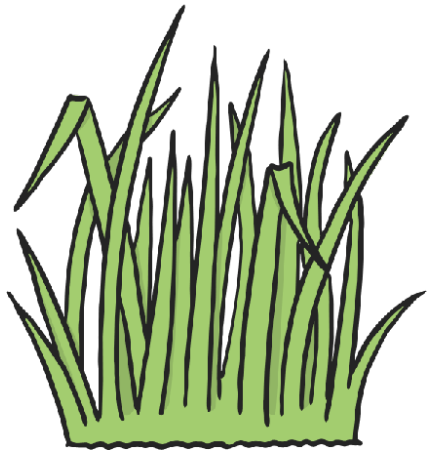
Rat: eats almost any food



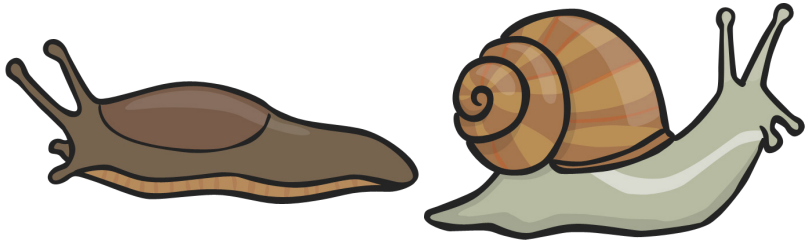
Pigeon: makes nests in tall buildings

Cat: is a pet for people

Dandelion: can grow in cracks in concrete

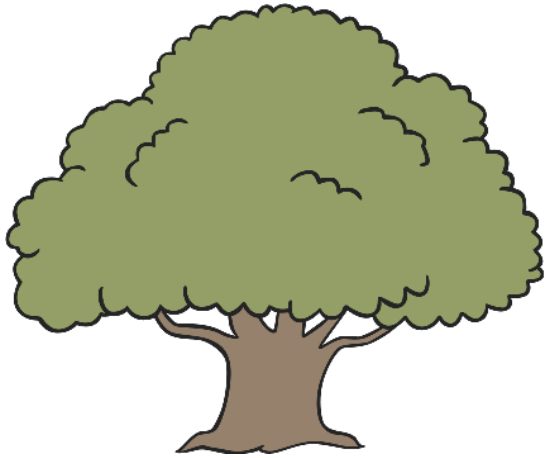


Grass: planted in parks and gardens

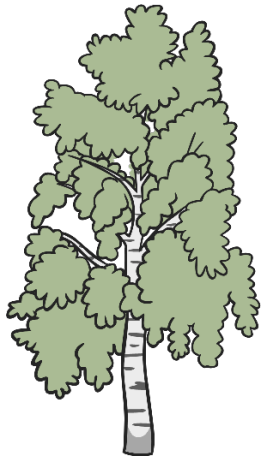


Slugs and snails: eat garden plants

Hedgehog: eats slugs and snails



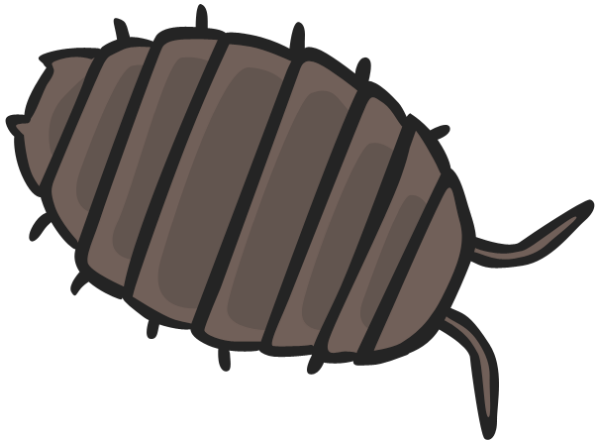
English oak: can live for over 1000 years



Birch: very deep roots

Wood mouse: stores berries and seeds for winter

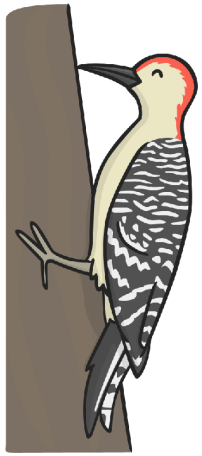
Squirrel: strong claws for climbing trees



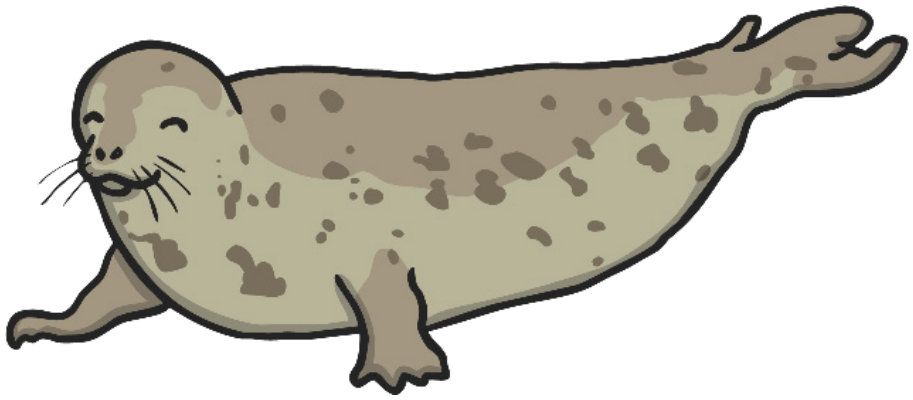
Wood louse: eats dead wood

Badger: strong paws for digging tunnels

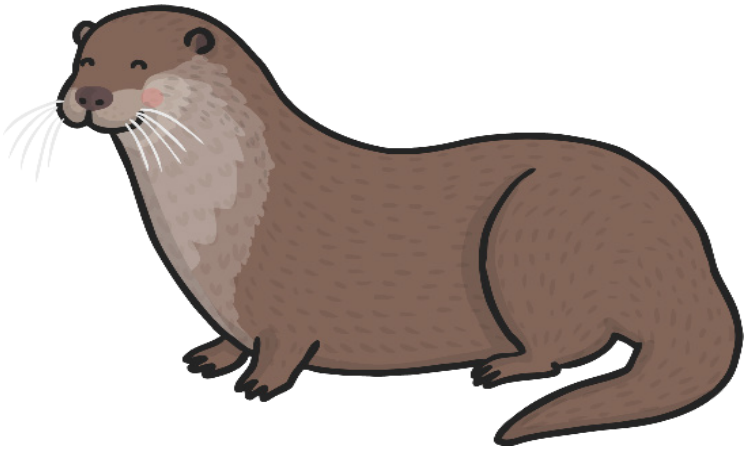
Owl: feathers help them hide in trees



Woodpecker: eats insects that live inside trees

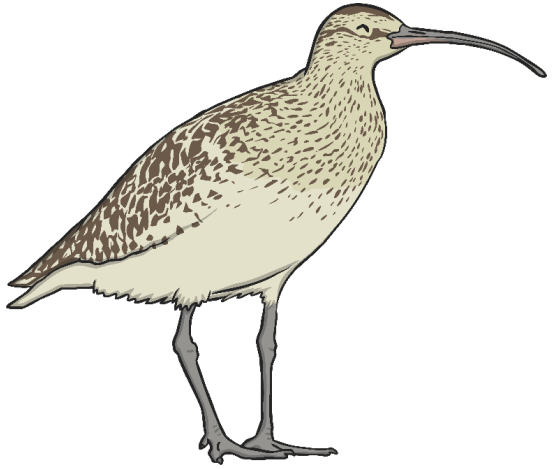


Seal: flippers for swimming and walking

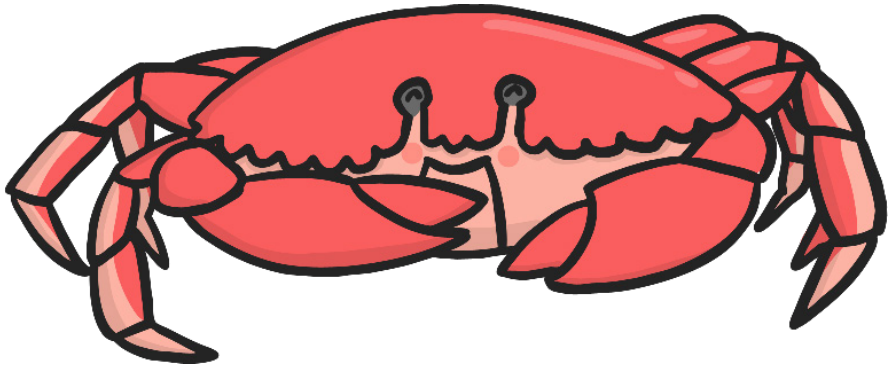


Otter: thick fur keeps them warm

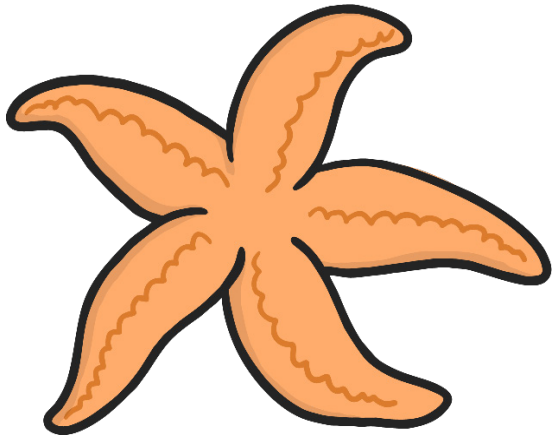
Seagull: drinks sea water



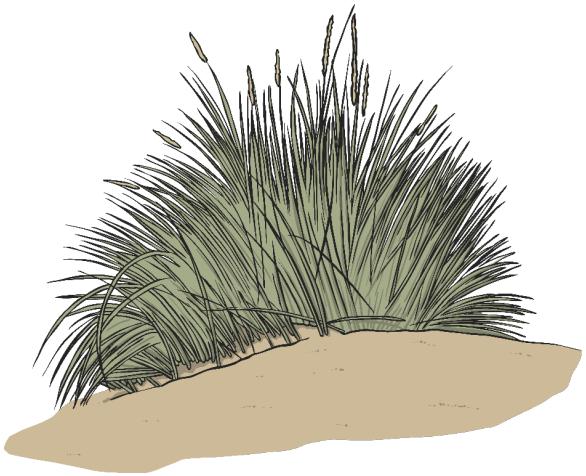
Curlew: long beak for catching creatures in the sand



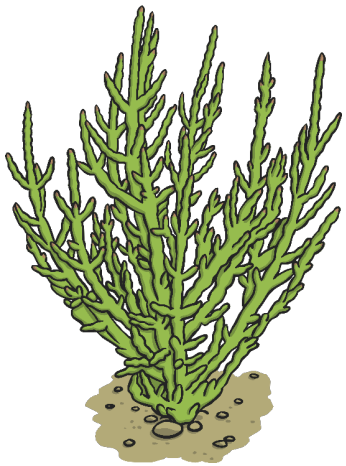
Crab: strong claws for burrowing in the sand



Starfish: grows back parts of its body



Marram Grass: thick roots to hold tight to sand

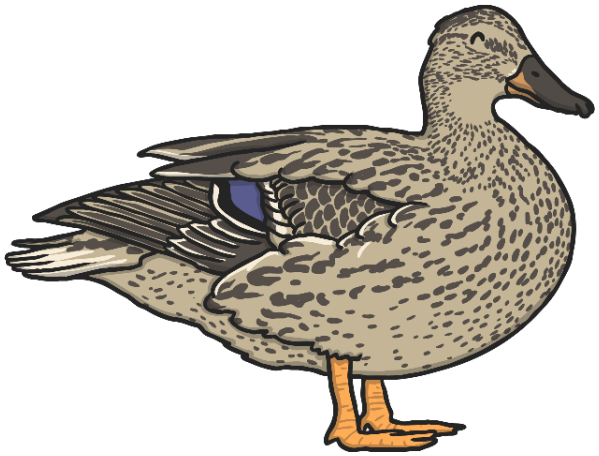


Glasswort: fleshy stems that store water

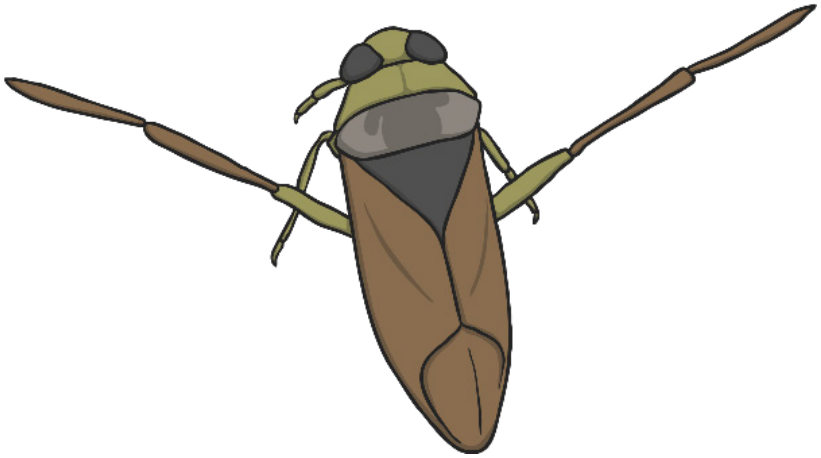
Frog: webbed feet for swimming

Toad: bumpy skin contains poison

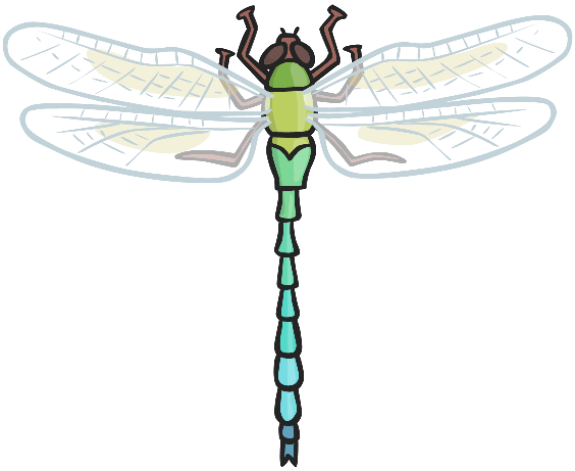
Kingfisher: sharp pointed beaks to catch fish



Duck: waterproof feathers keep them dry



Water Boatman: back legs paddle on water



Dragonflies: large eyes to see small insects

Pond Skater: sharp mouths to stab and catch insects

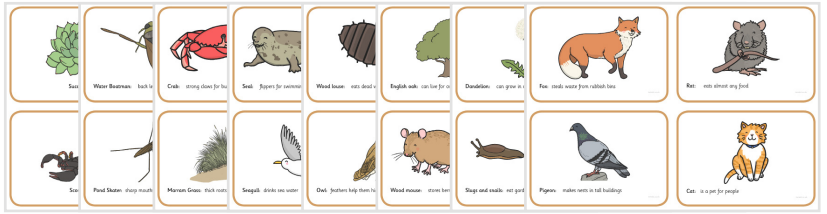
Bulrush: grows in shallow water

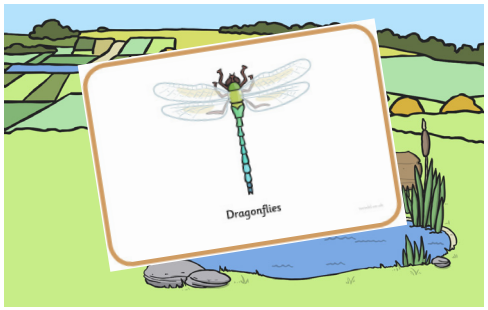
British Habitats Sorting Activity

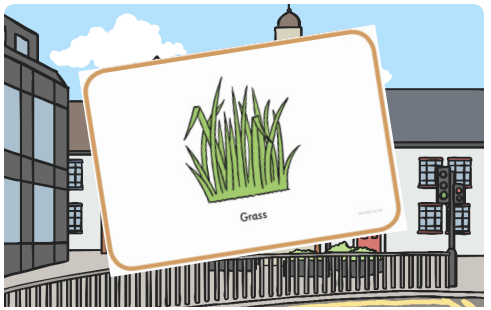
Resources

This pack contains:

- Four British Habitats sorting boards.
- One set of Living Things cards.

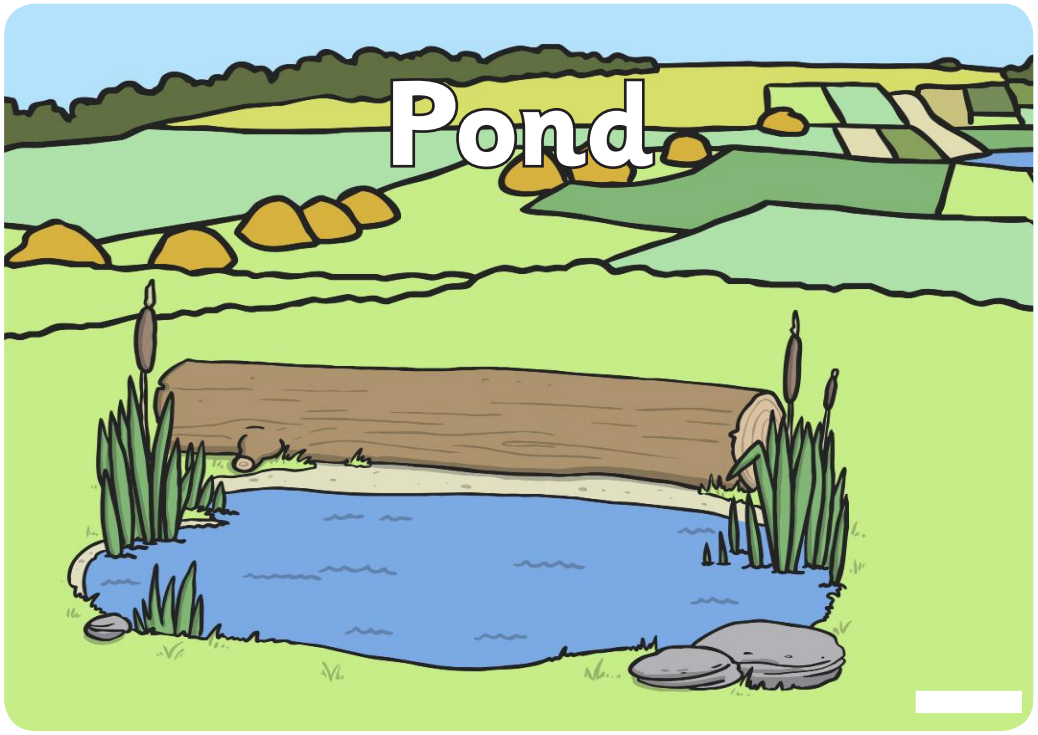


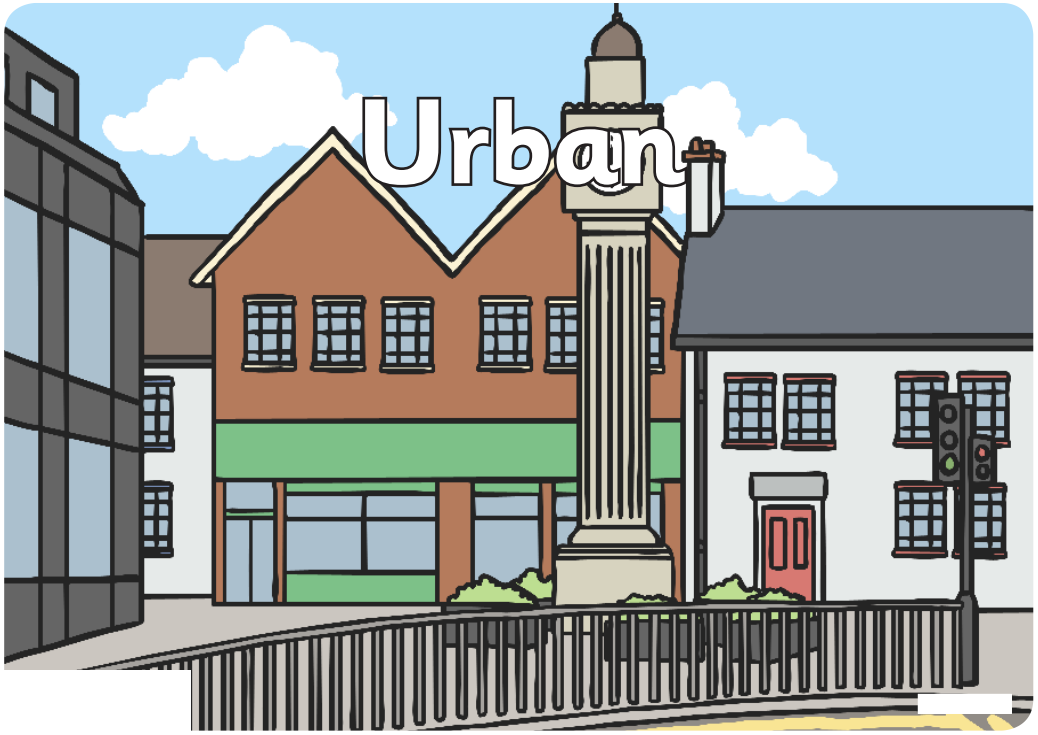




Sort the cards into their correct habitats!

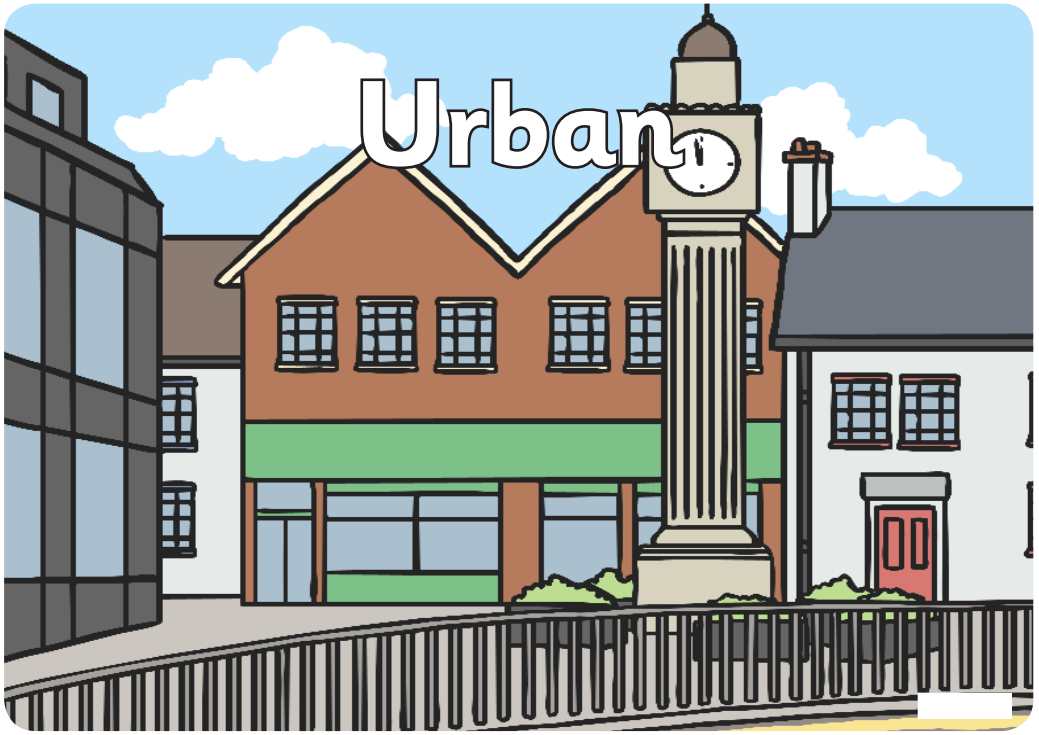
Coast


Pond


Urban

Woodland

Woodland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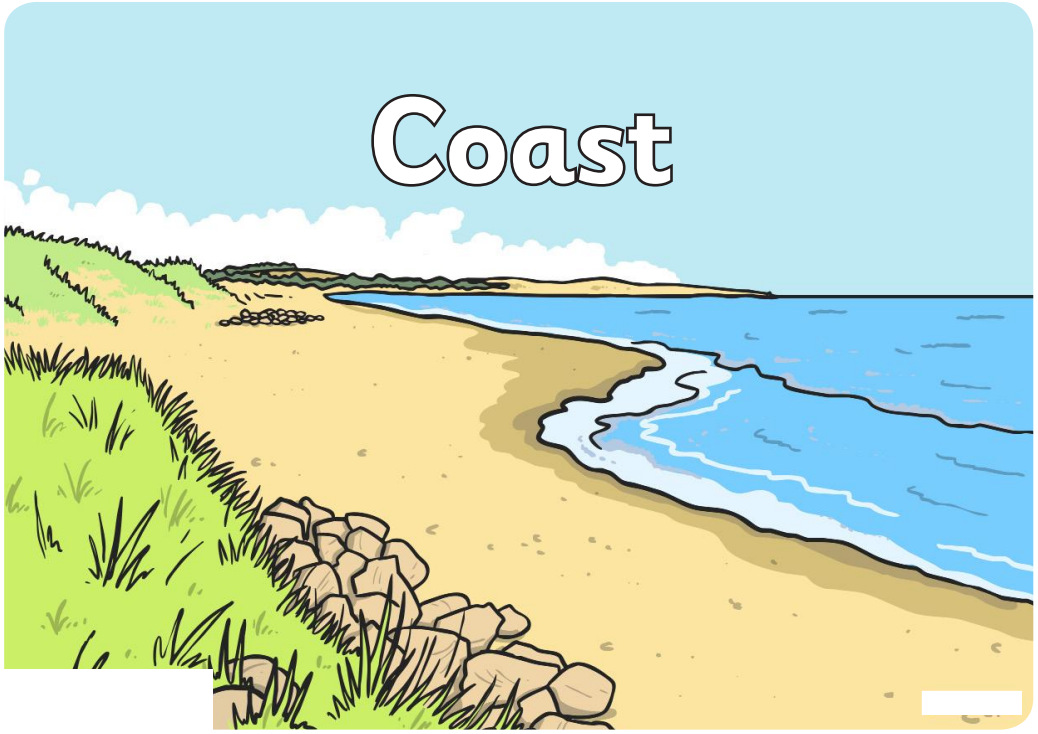
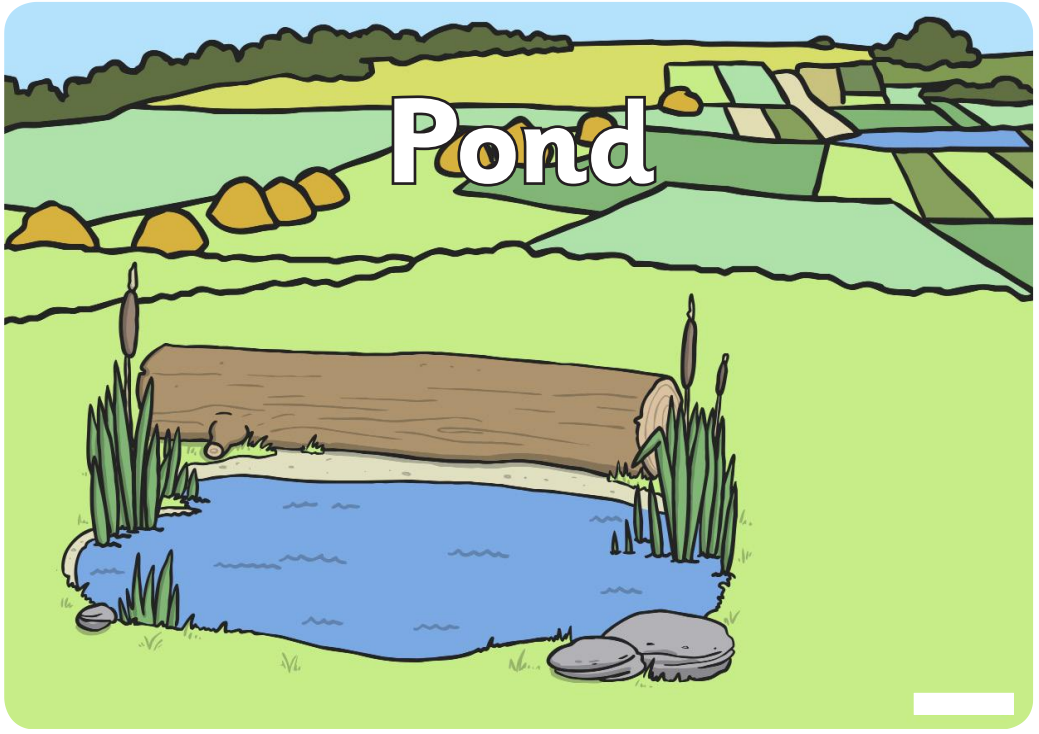

Coast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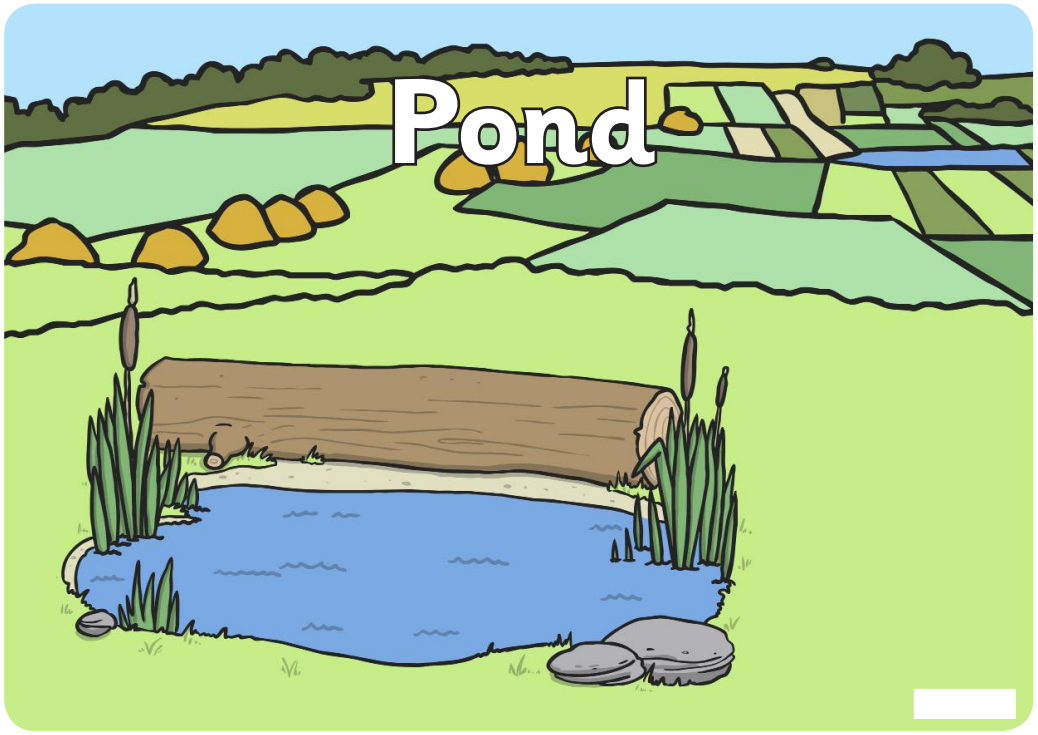
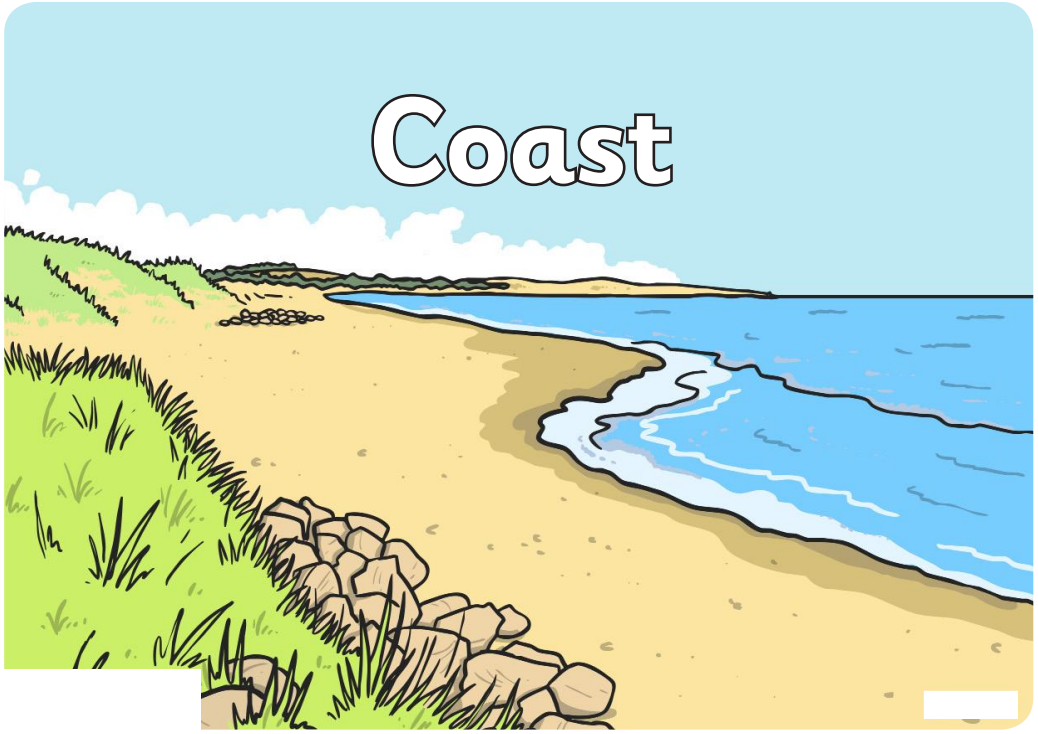

Pond

Woodland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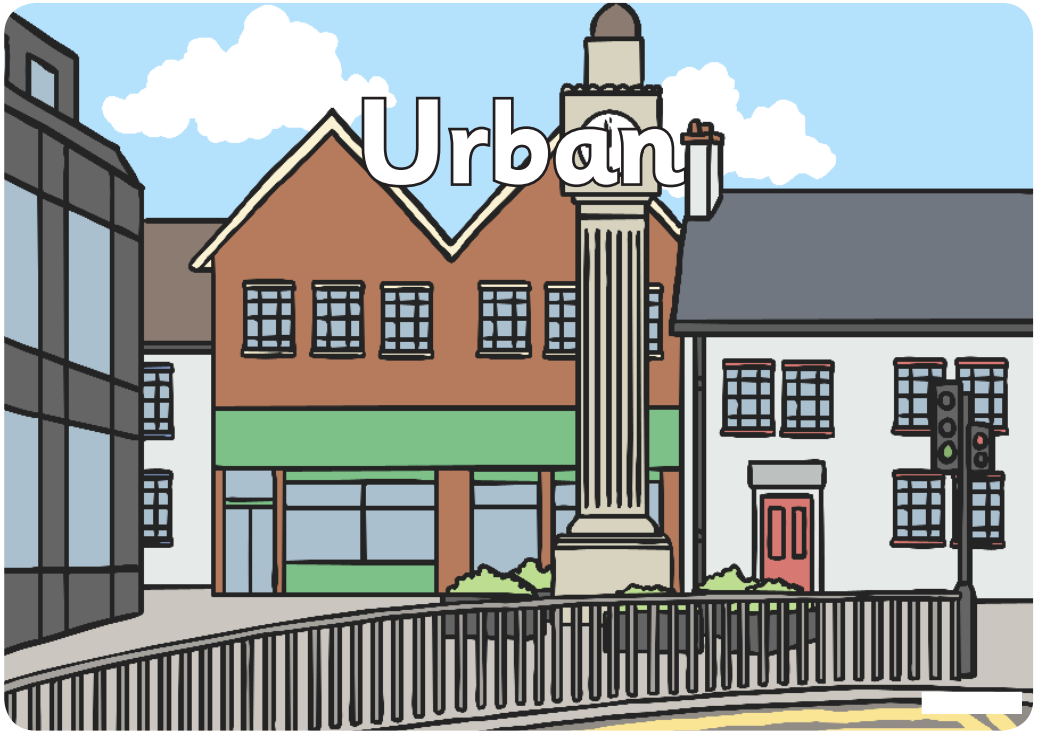
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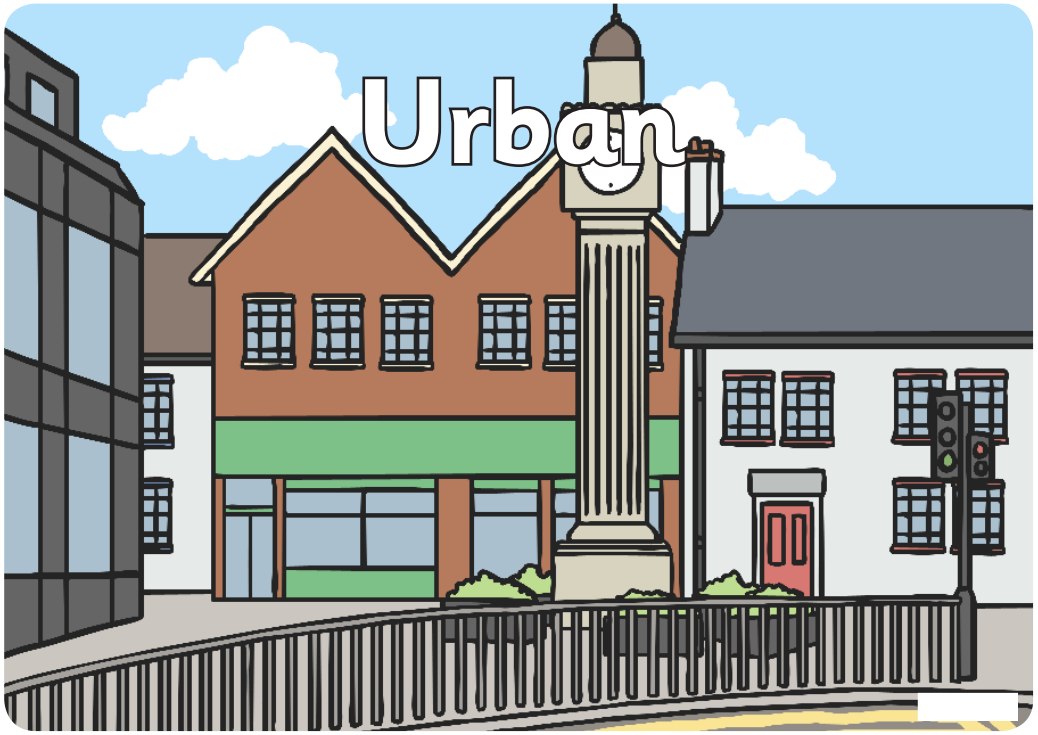
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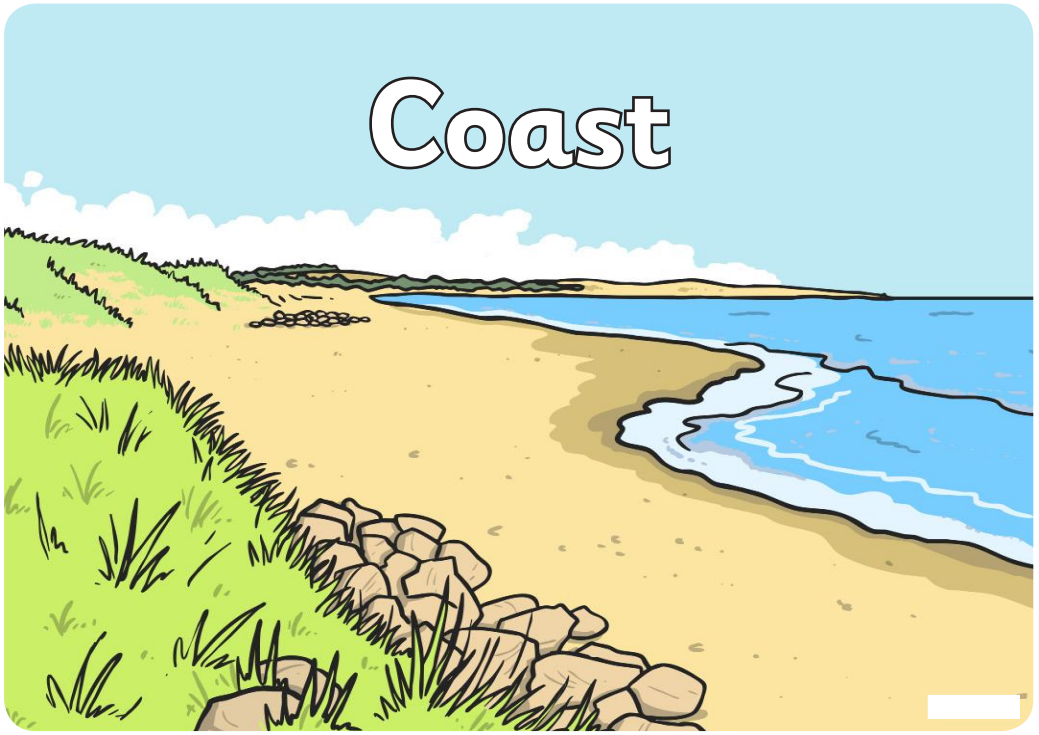
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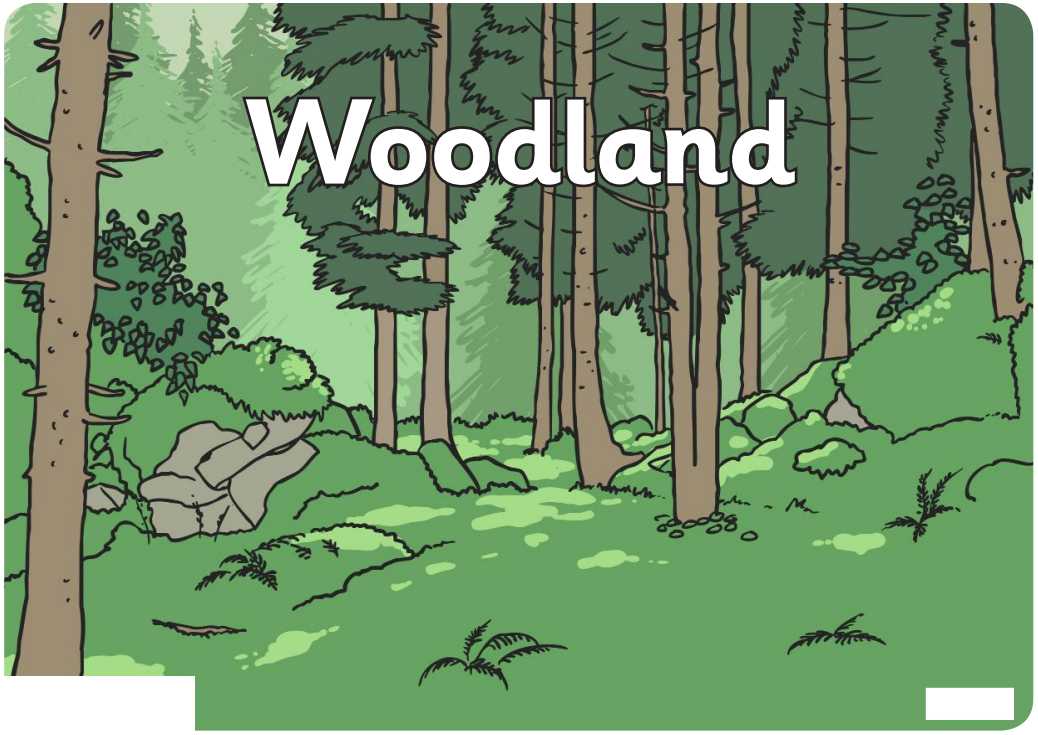
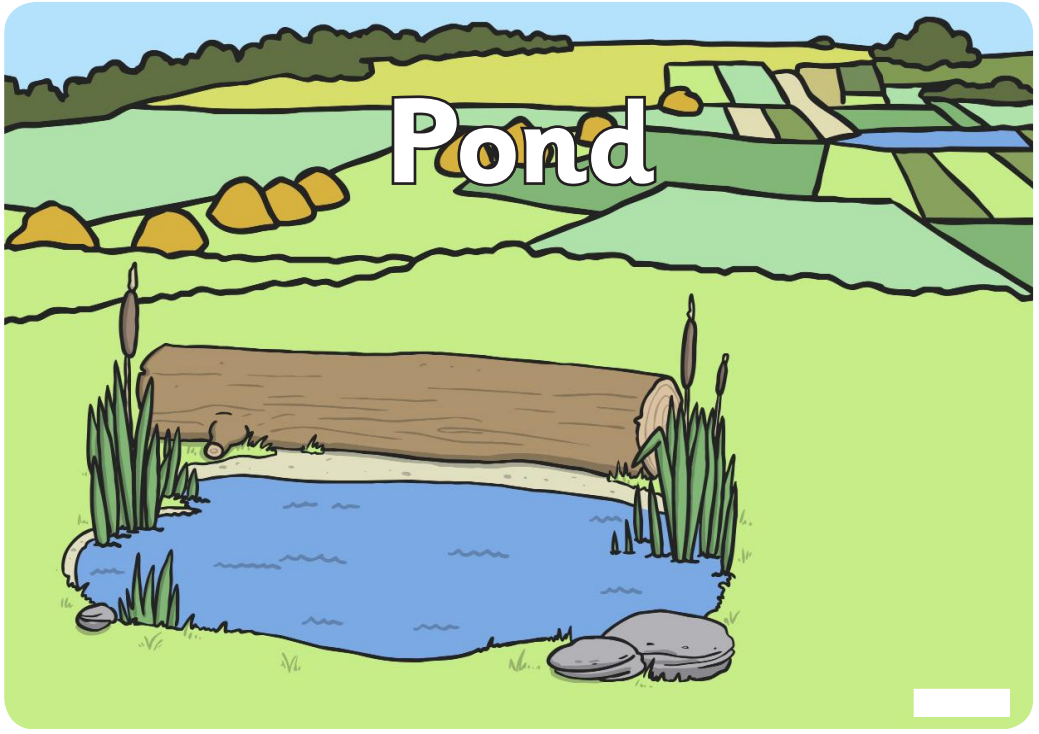
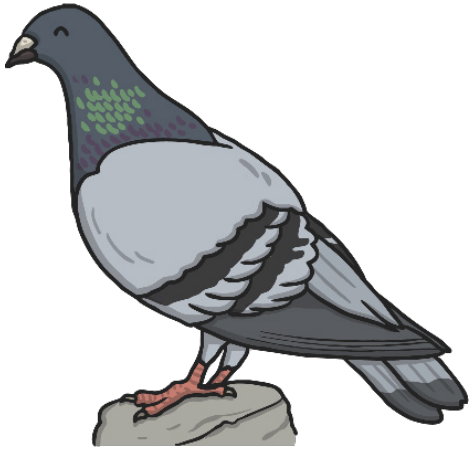

Woodland


Pond

Fox

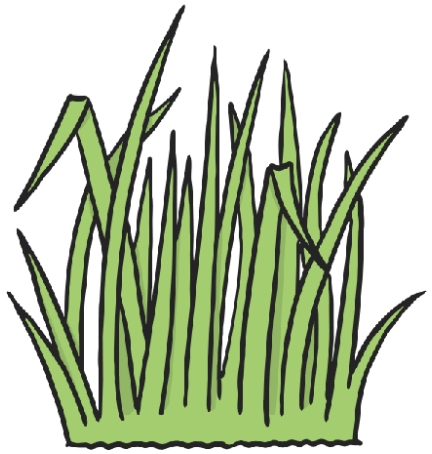
Rat



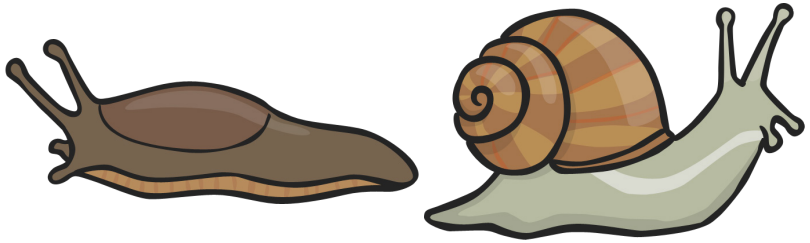
Pigeon

Cat

Dandelion

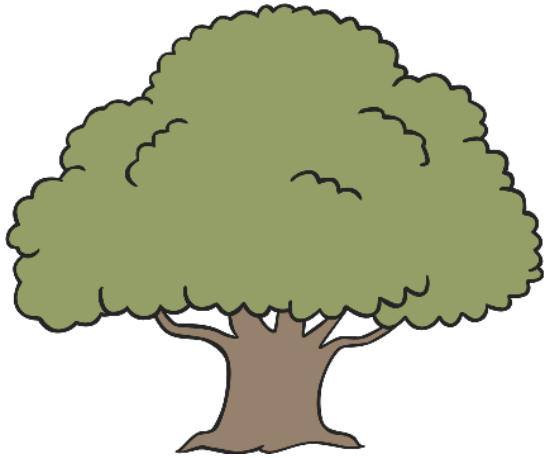


Grass

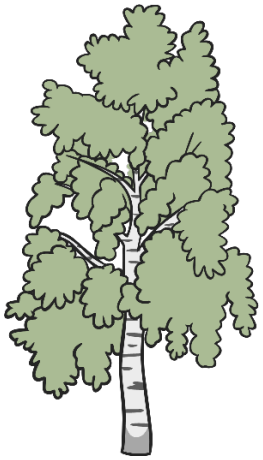


Slugs and snails

Hedgehog



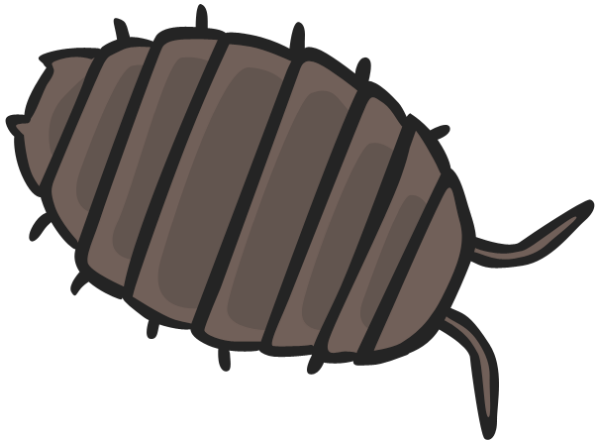
English oak



Birch

Wood mouse

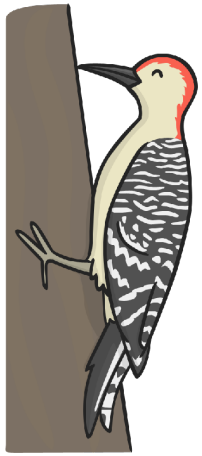
Squirrel



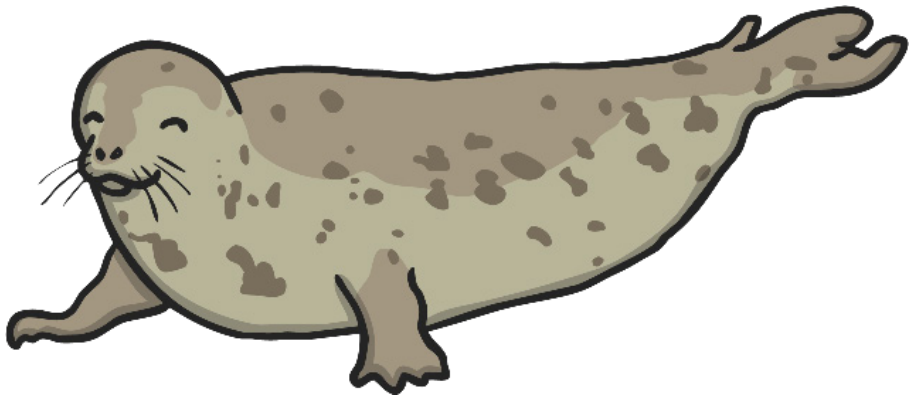
Wood louse

Badger

Owl



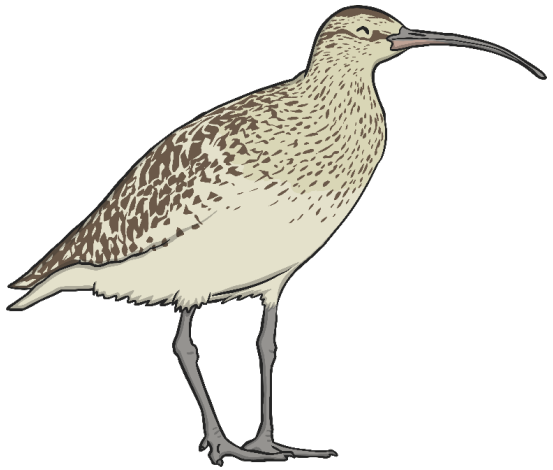
Woodpecker



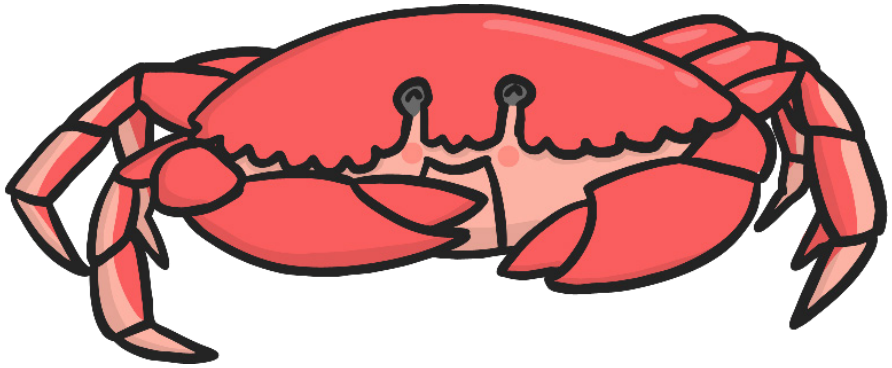
Seal

Otter

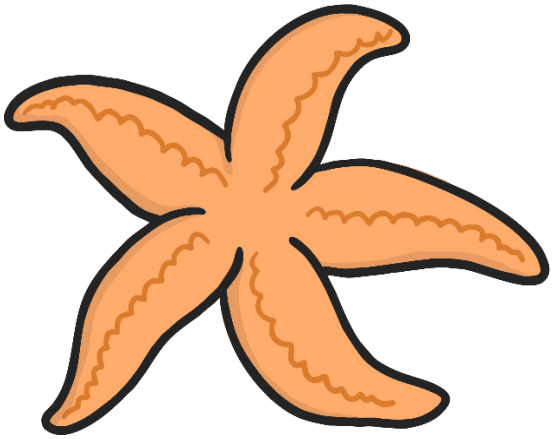
Seagull



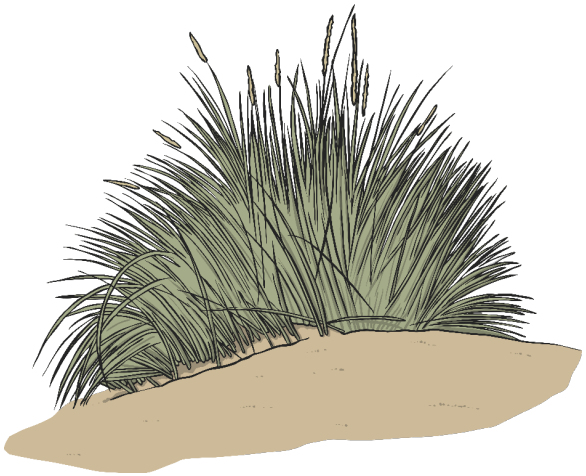
Curlew



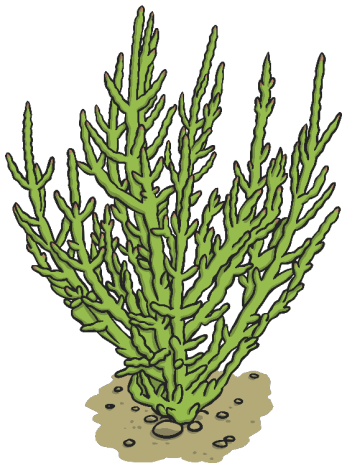
Crab



Starfish



Marram Grass

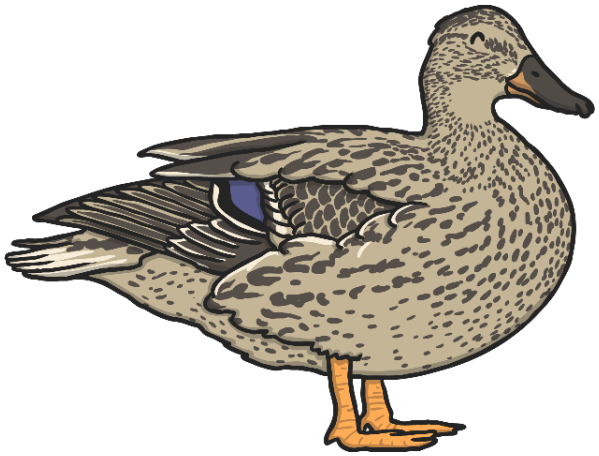


Glasswort

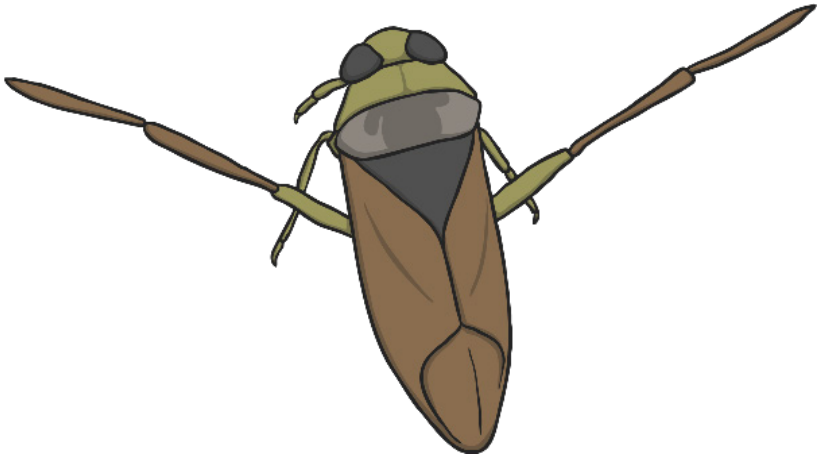
Frog

Toad

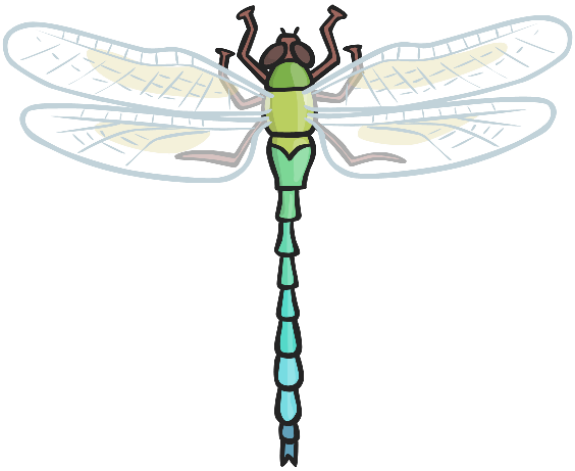
Kingfisher



Duck



Water Boatman



Dragonflies

Pond Skater

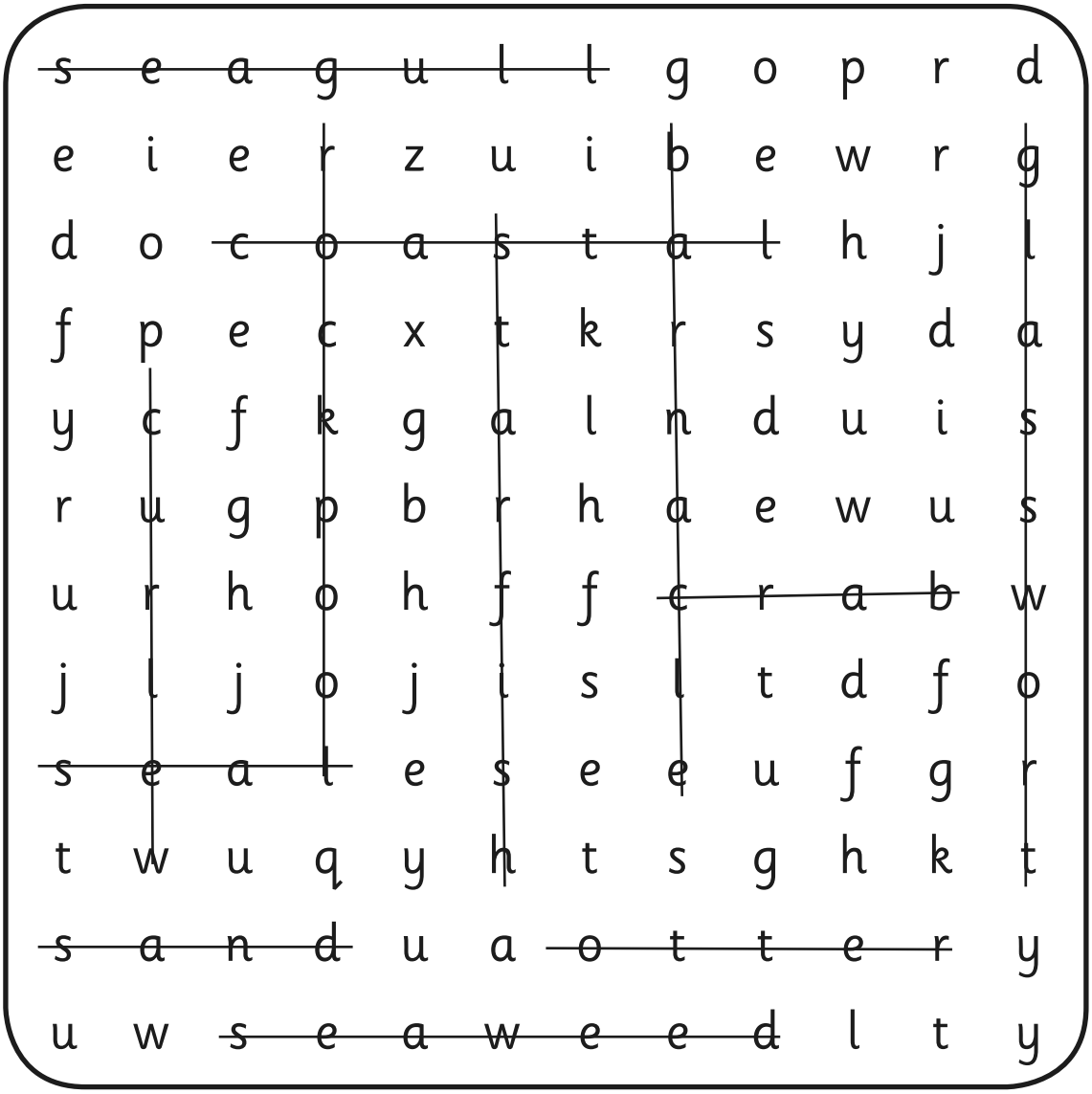
Bulrush

Coastal Habitats

s	e	a	g	u	l	l	g	o	p	r	d
e	i	e	r	z	u	i	b	e	w	r	g
d	o	c	o	a	s	t	a	l	h	j	l
f	p	e	c	x	t	k	r	s	y	d	a
y	c	f	k	g	a	l	n	d	u	i	s
r	u	g	p	b	r	h	a	e	w	u	s
u	r	h	o	h	f	f	c	r	a	b	w
j	l	j	o	j	i	s	l	t	d	f	o
s	e	a	l	e	s	e	e	u	f	g	r
t	w	u	q	y	h	t	s	g	h	k	t
s	a	n	d	u	a	o	t	t	e	r	y
u	w	s	e	a	w	e	e	d	l	t	y

coastal
sand
rock pool
starfish
barnacle
crab
seagull
curlew
otter
seal
seaweed
glasswort

Coastal Habitats



coastal
sand
rock pool
starfish
barnacle
crab

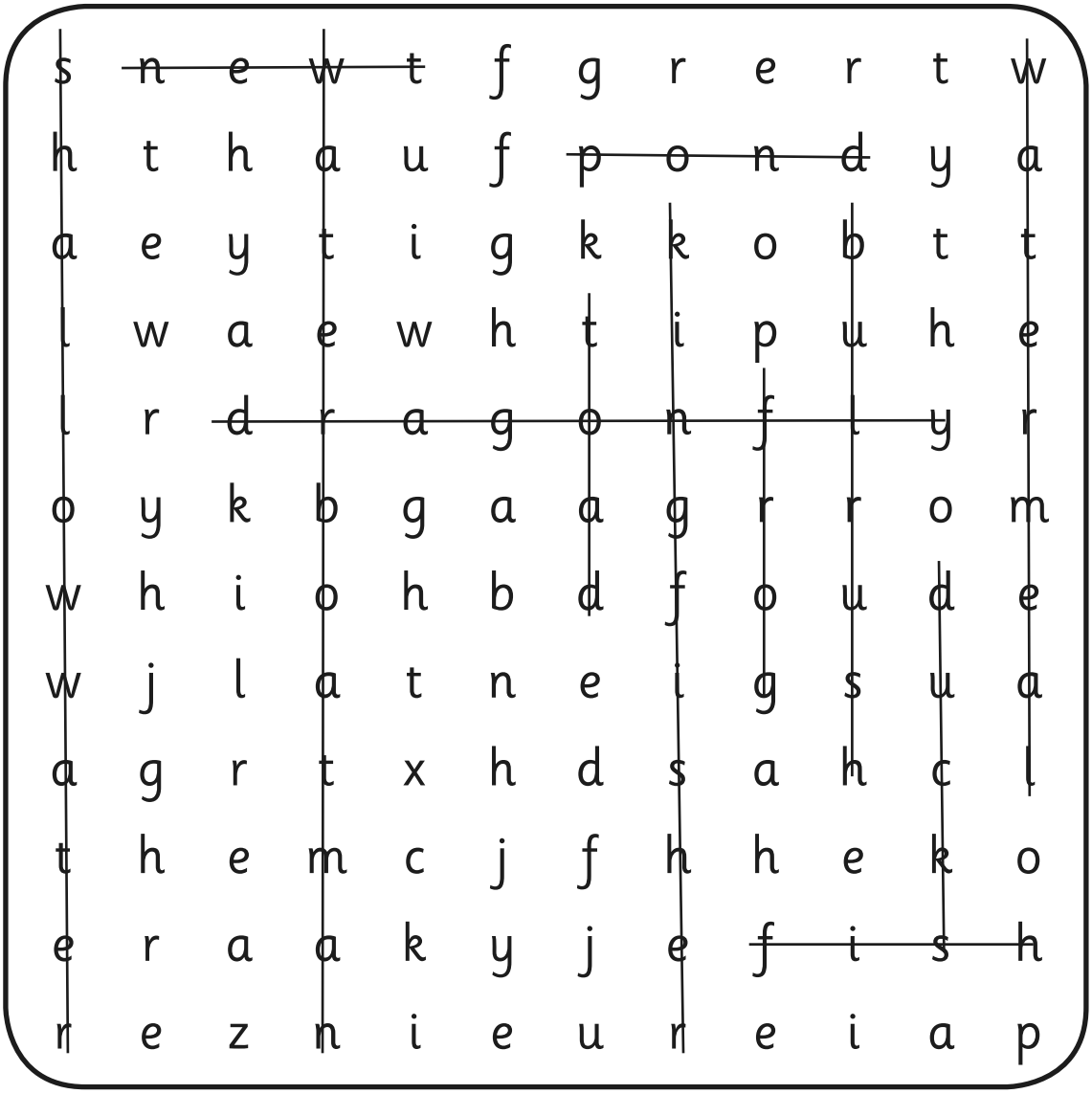
seagull
curlew
otter
seal
seaweed
glasswort

Pond Habitats

s	n	e	w	t	f	g	r	e	r	t	w
h	t	h	a	u	f	p	o	n	d	y	a
a	e	y	t	i	g	k	k	o	b	t	t
l	w	a	e	w	h	t	i	p	u	h	e
l	r	d	r	a	g	o	n	f	l	y	r
o	y	k	b	g	a	a	g	r	r	o	m
w	h	i	o	h	b	d	f	o	u	d	e
w	j	l	a	t	n	e	i	g	s	u	a
a	g	r	t	x	h	d	s	a	h	c	l
t	h	e	m	c	j	f	h	h	e	k	o
e	r	a	a	k	y	j	e	f	i	s	h
r	e	z	n	i	e	u	r	e	i	a	p

pond
shallow water
frog
toad
newt
fish
dragonfly
water boatman
kingfisher
duck
watermeal
bulrush

Pond Habitats



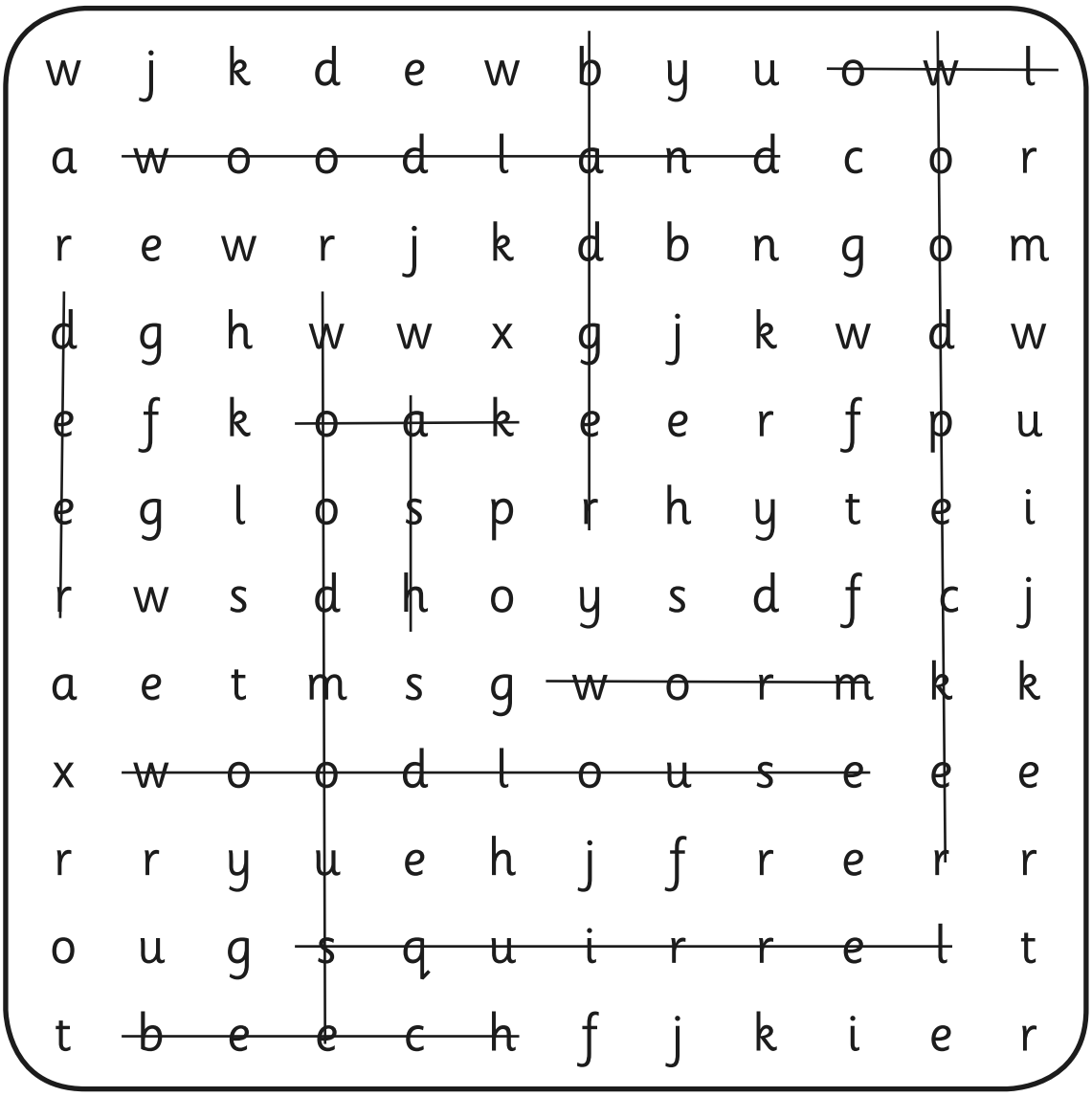
pond
shallow water
frog
toad
newt
fish
dragonfly
water boatman
kingfisher
duck
watermeal
bulrush

Woodland Habitats

w	j	k	d	e	w	b	y	u	o	w	l
a	w	o	o	d	l	a	n	d	c	o	r
r	e	w	r	j	k	d	b	n	g	o	m
d	g	h	w	w	x	g	j	k	w	d	w
e	f	k	o	a	k	e	e	r	f	p	u
e	g	l	o	s	p	r	h	y	t	e	i
r	w	s	d	h	o	y	s	d	f	c	j
a	e	t	m	s	g	w	o	r	m	k	k
x	w	o	o	d	l	o	u	s	e	e	e
r	r	y	u	e	h	j	f	r	e	r	r
o	u	g	s	q	u	i	r	r	e	l	t
t	b	e	e	c	h	f	j	k	i	e	r

woodland
oak
ash
beech
badger
deer
squirrel
wood mouse
woodlouse
worm
woodpecker
owl

Woodland Habitats



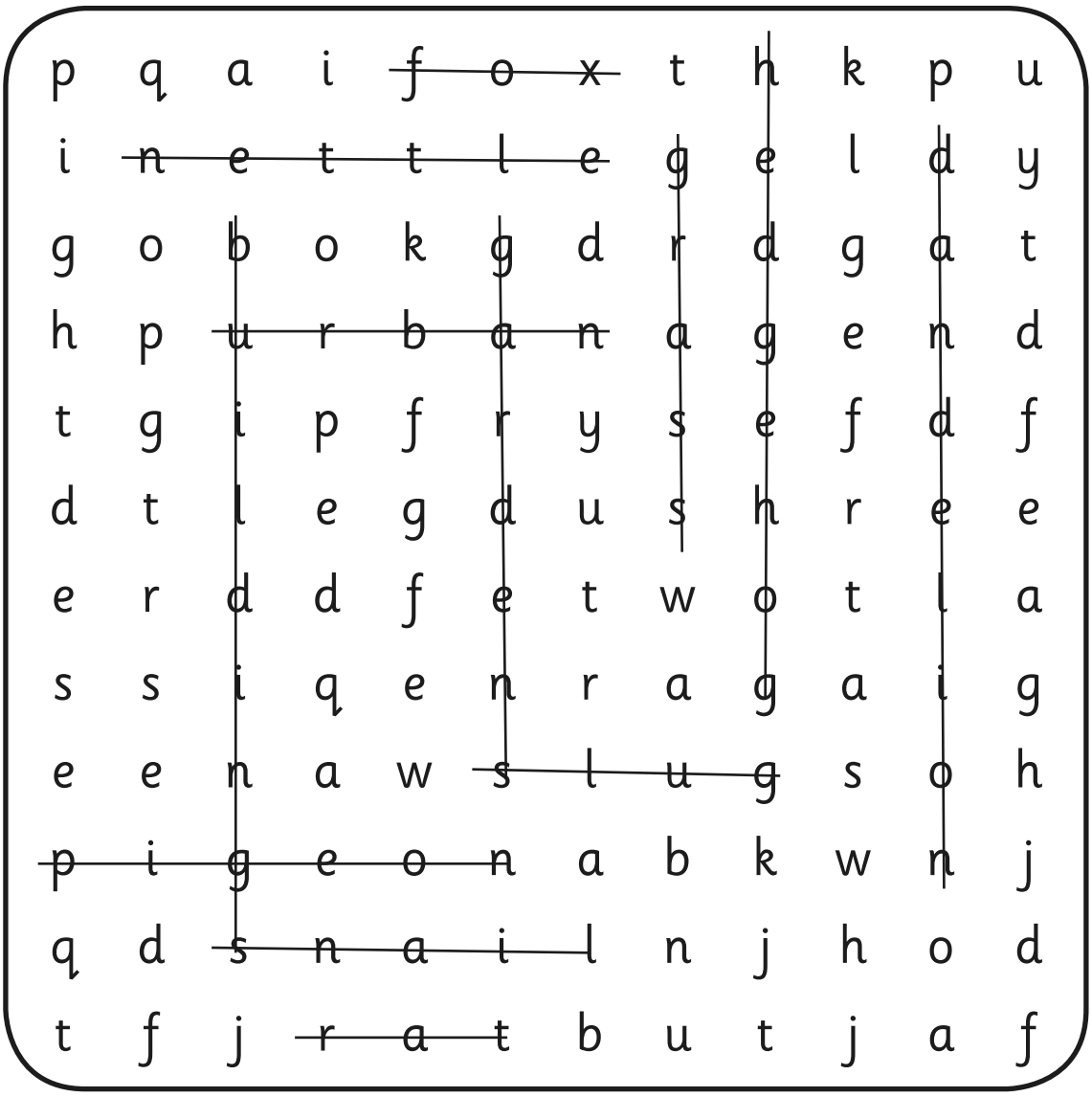
woodland	squirrel
oak	wood mouse
ash	woodlouse
beech	worm
badger	woodpecker
deer	owl

Urban Habitats

p	q	a	i	f	o	x	t	h	k	p	u
i	n	e	t	t	l	e	g	e	l	d	y
g	o	b	o	k	g	d	r	d	g	a	t
h	p	u	r	b	a	n	a	g	e	n	d
t	g	i	p	f	r	y	s	e	f	d	f
d	t	l	e	g	d	u	s	h	r	e	e
e	r	d	d	f	e	t	w	o	t	l	a
s	s	i	q	e	n	r	a	g	a	i	g
e	e	n	a	w	s	l	u	g	s	o	h
p	i	g	e	o	n	a	b	k	w	n	j
q	d	s	n	a	i	l	n	j	h	o	d
t	f	j	r	a	t	b	u	t	j	a	f

urban
buildings
gardens
pigeon
rat
fox
hedgehog
dandelion
nettle
grass
slug
snail

Urban Habitats



urban
buildings
gardens
pigeon
rat
fox

hedgehog
dandelion
nettle
grass
slug
snail

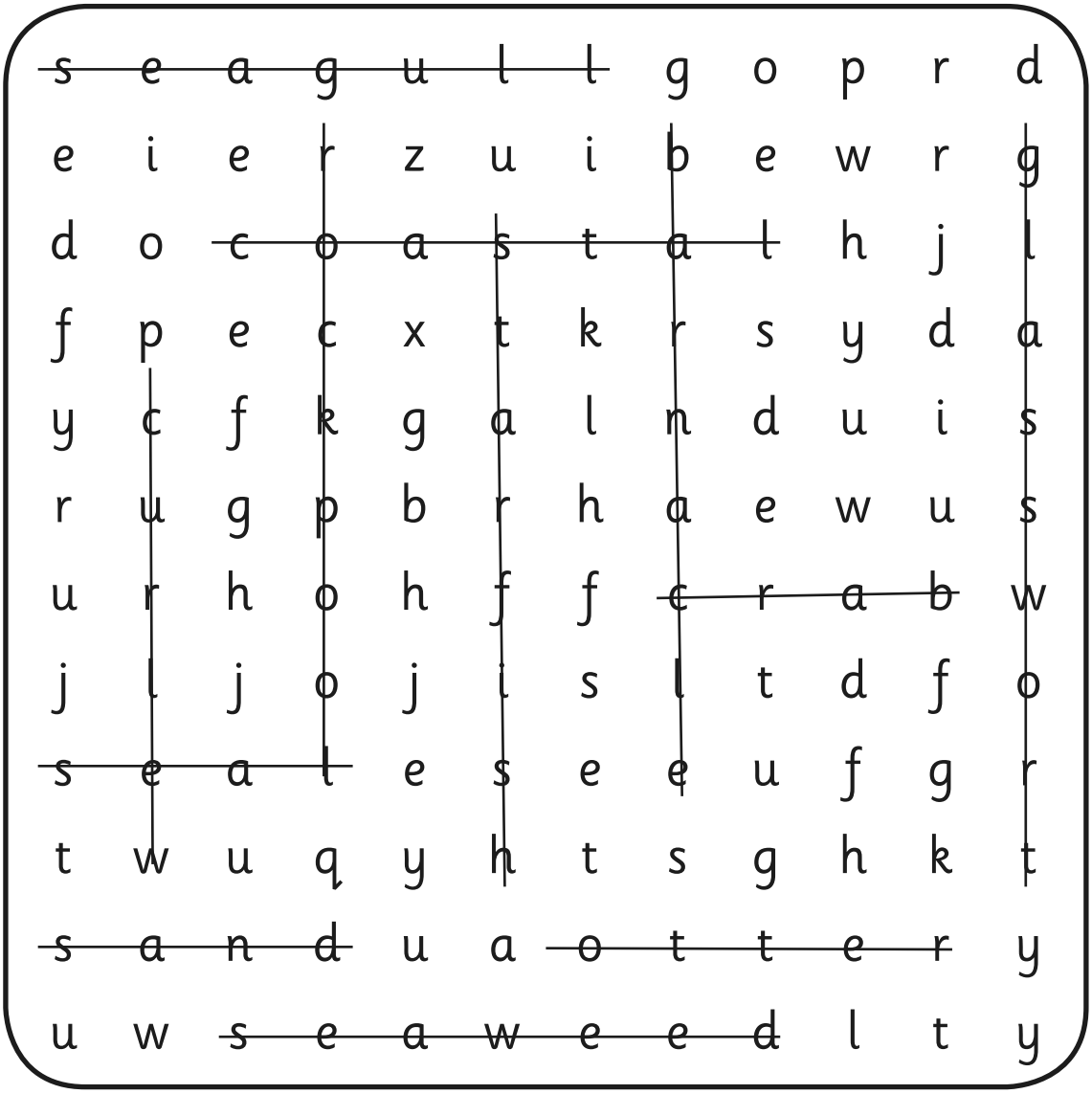
Coastal Habitats

s	e	a	g	u	l	l	g	o	p	r	d
e	i	e	r	z	u	i	b	e	w	r	g
d	o	c	o	a	s	t	a	l	h	j	l
f	p	e	c	x	t	k	r	s	y	d	a
y	c	f	k	g	a	l	n	d	u	i	s
r	u	g	p	b	r	h	a	e	w	u	s
u	r	h	o	h	f	f	c	r	a	b	w
j	l	j	o	j	i	s	l	t	d	f	o
s	e	a	l	e	s	e	e	u	f	g	r
t	w	u	q	y	h	t	s	g	h	k	t
s	a	n	d	u	a	o	t	t	e	r	y
u	w	s	e	a	w	e	e	d	l	t	y

coastal
sand
rock pool
starfish
barnacle
crab

seagull
curlew
otter
seal
seaweed
glasswort

Coastal Habitats



coastal
sand
rock pool
starfish
barnacle
crab

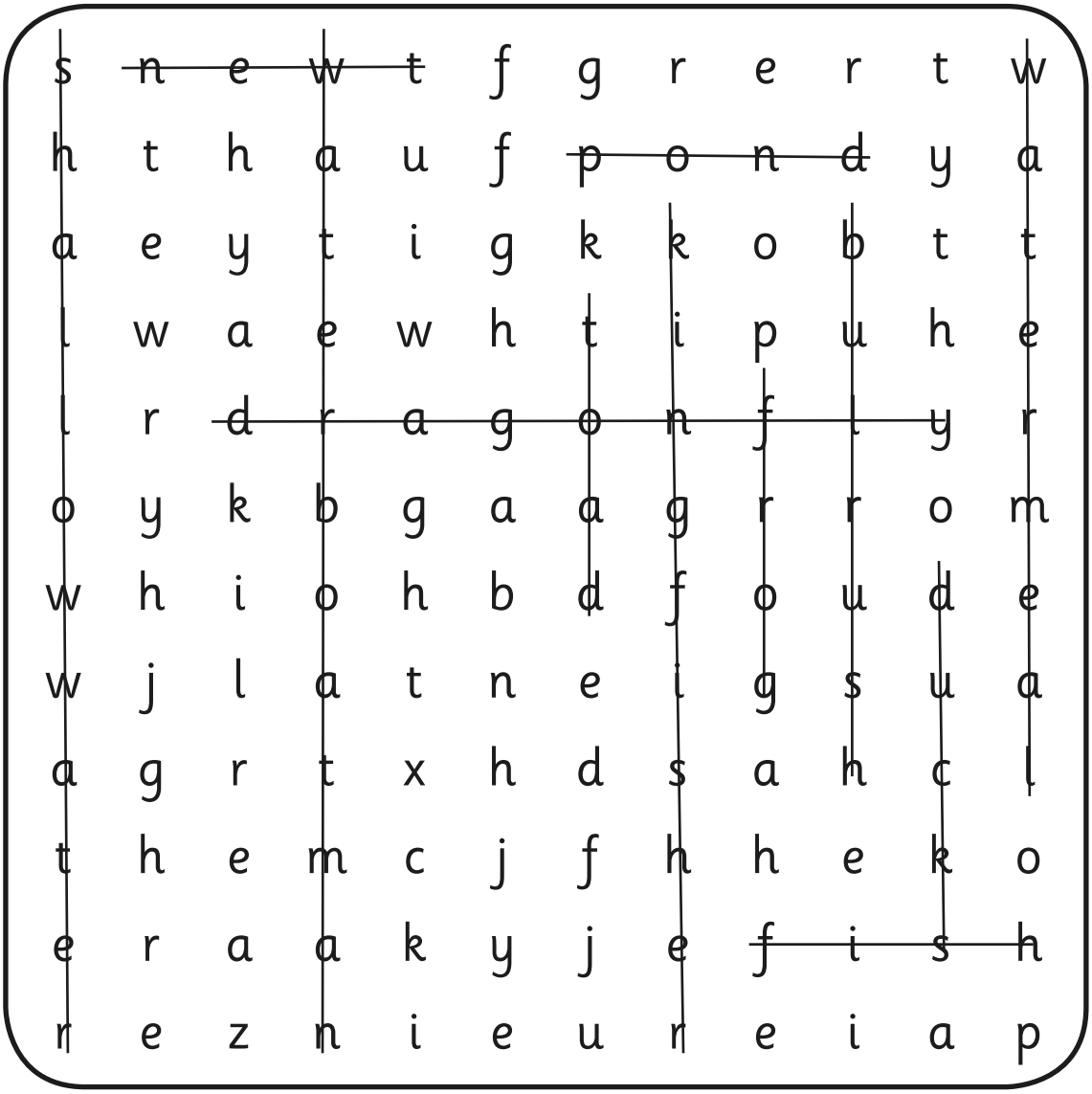
seagull
curlew
otter
seal
seaweed
glasswort

Pond Habitats

s	n	e	w	t	f	g	r	e	r	t	w
h	t	h	a	u	f	p	o	n	d	y	a
a	e	y	t	i	g	k	k	o	b	t	t
l	w	a	e	w	h	t	i	p	u	h	e
l	r	d	r	a	g	o	n	f	l	y	r
o	y	k	b	g	a	a	g	r	r	o	m
w	h	i	o	h	b	d	f	o	u	d	e
w	j	l	a	t	n	e	i	g	s	u	a
a	g	r	t	x	h	d	s	a	h	c	l
t	h	e	m	c	j	f	h	h	e	k	o
e	r	a	a	k	y	j	e	f	i	s	h
r	e	z	n	i	e	u	r	e	i	a	p

pond
shallow water
frog
toad
newt
fish
dragonfly
water boatman
kingfisher
duck
watermeal
bulrush

Pond Habitats



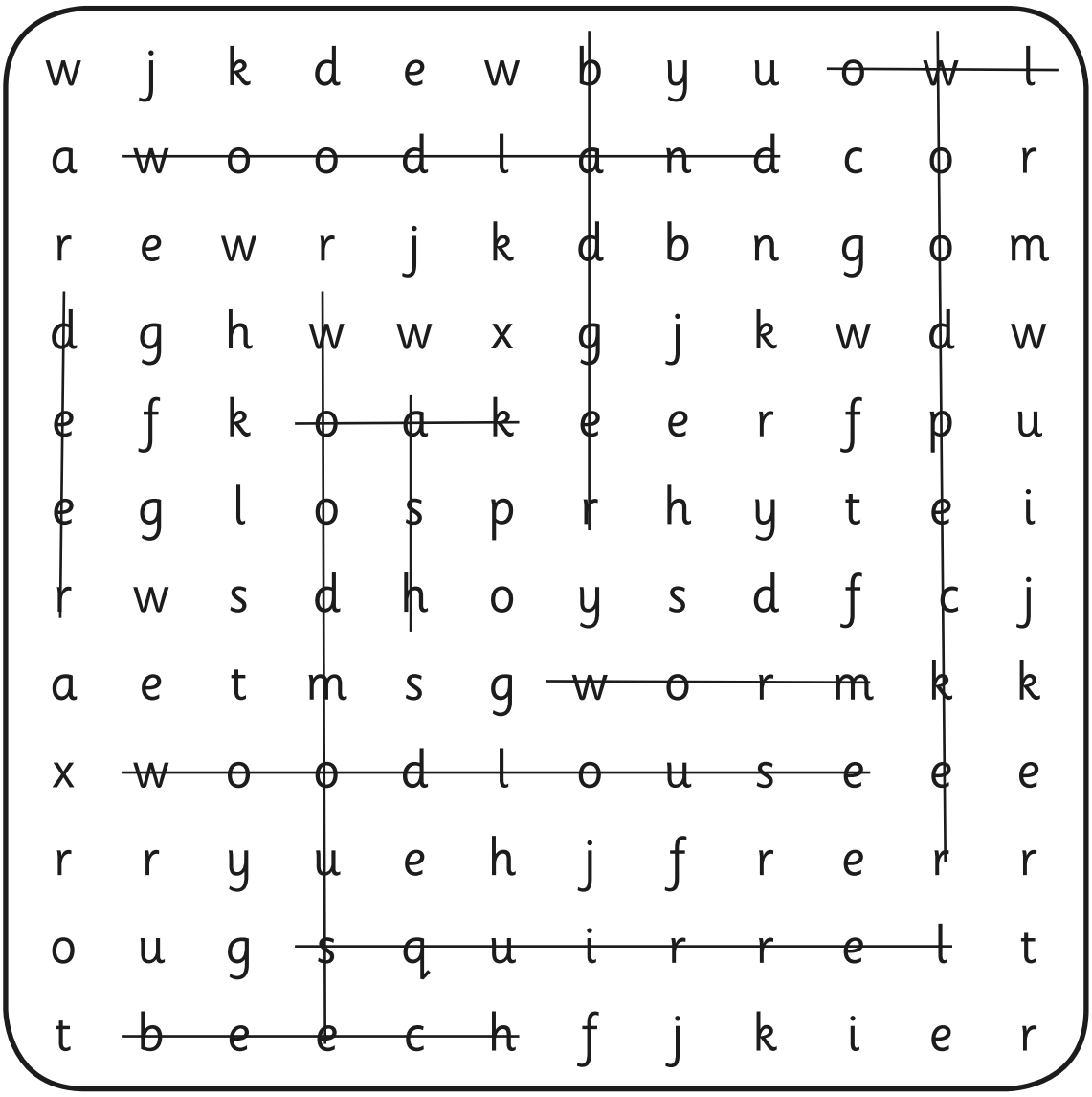
pond
shallow water
frog
toad
newt
fish
dragonfly
water boatman
kingfisher
duck
watermeal
bulrush

Woodland Habitats

w	j	k	d	e	w	b	y	u	o	w	l
a	w	o	o	d	l	a	n	d	c	o	r
r	e	w	r	j	k	d	b	n	g	o	m
d	g	h	w	w	x	g	j	k	w	d	w
e	f	k	o	a	k	e	e	r	f	p	u
e	g	l	o	s	p	r	h	y	t	e	i
r	w	s	d	h	o	y	s	d	f	c	j
a	e	t	m	s	g	w	o	r	m	k	k
x	w	o	o	d	l	o	u	s	e	e	e
r	r	y	u	e	h	j	f	r	e	r	r
o	u	g	s	q	u	i	r	r	e	l	t
t	b	e	e	c	h	f	j	k	i	e	r

woodland
oak
ash
beech
badger
deer
squirrel
wood mouse
woodlouse
worm
woodpecker
owl

Woodland Habitats



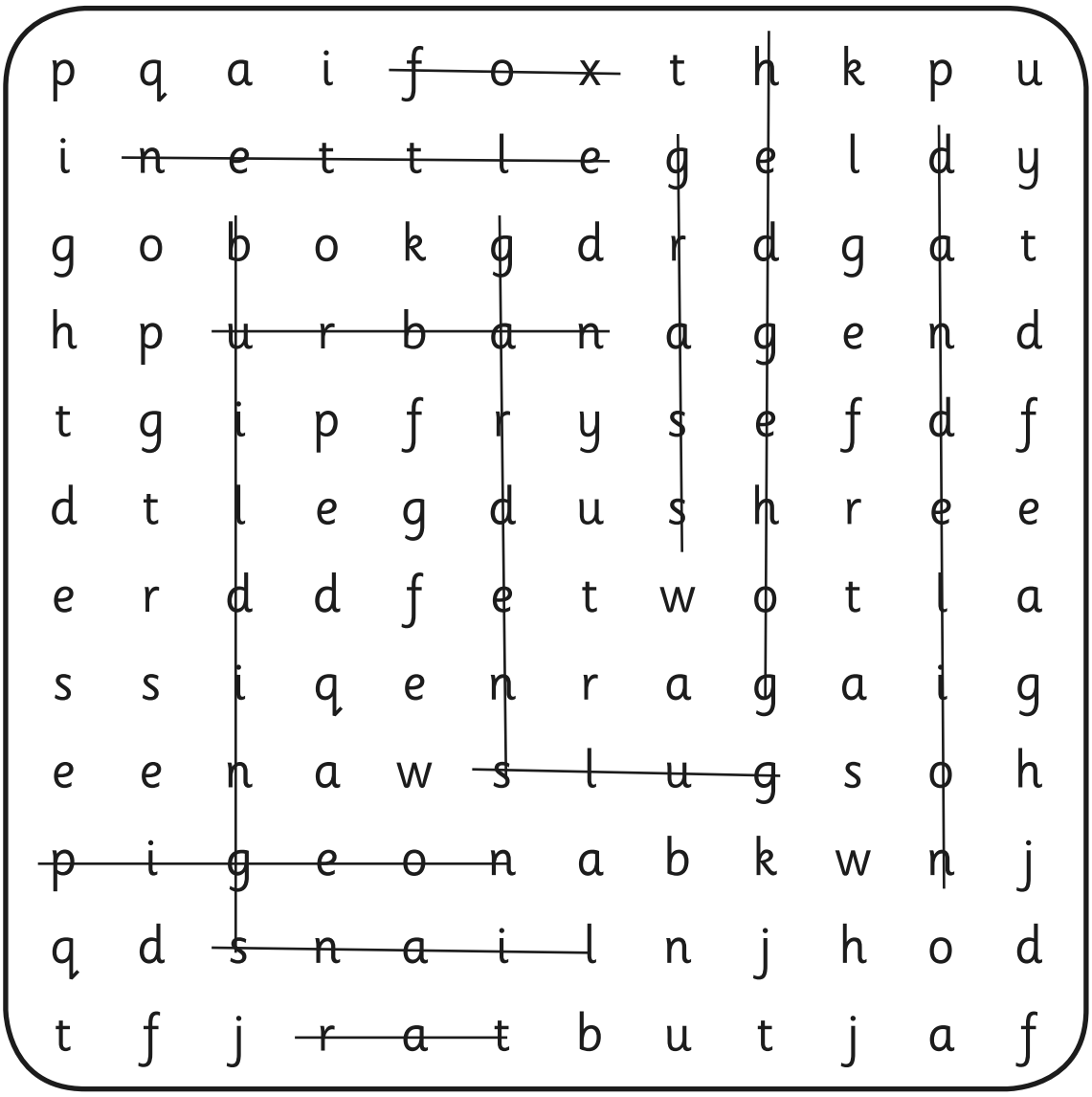
woodland	squirrel
oak	wood mouse
ash	woodlouse
beech	worm
badger	woodpecker
deer	owl

Urban Habitats

p	q	a	i	f	o	x	t	h	k	p	u
i	n	e	t	t	l	e	g	e	l	d	y
g	o	b	o	k	g	d	r	d	g	a	t
h	p	u	r	b	a	n	a	g	e	n	d
t	g	i	p	f	r	y	s	e	f	d	f
d	t	l	e	g	d	u	s	h	r	e	e
e	r	d	d	f	e	t	w	o	t	l	a
s	s	i	q	e	n	r	a	g	a	i	g
e	e	n	a	w	s	l	u	g	s	o	h
p	i	g	e	o	n	a	b	k	w	n	j
q	d	s	n	a	i	l	n	j	h	o	d
t	f	j	r	a	t	b	u	t	j	a	f

urban
buildings
gardens
pigeon
rat
fox
hedgehog
dandelion
nettle
grass
slug
snail

Urban Habitats



urban
buildings
gardens
pigeon
rat
fox

hedgehog
dandelion
nettle
grass
slug
snail

Local Habitat Living, Dead or Never Alive

I can classify objects as those that are living, dead and those that have never been alive.

What is in this habitat? Look around you carefully and find things that are living, dead or have never been alive. Draw or write at least five things in each box.

Living	Dead	Never Alive

Local Habitat Living, Dead or Never Alive

What is in this habitat? Look around you carefully and find things that are living, dead or have never been alive. Draw or write at least five things in each box.

Living	Dead	Never Alive

Local Habitat Map

I can map a habitat and identify what is in it.

Draw a map of the local habitat.

Draw the trees and plants, and any animal homes that you find.

Local Habitat Map

I can map a habitat and identify what is in it.

Draw a map of the local habitat.

Draw the trees and plants, and any animal homes that you find.

What kind of habitat is it?

_____

Draw and label any animals you see.

Local Habitat Map

Draw a map of the local habitat.

Draw the trees and plants, and any animal homes that you find.

Local Habitat Map

Draw a map of the local habitat.

Draw the trees and plants, and any animal homes that you find.

What kind of habitat is it?

_____

Draw and label any animals you see.