Paganel Primary School –Knowledge Organiser

Year Group: 2 Topic: Living Things and their Habitats

What? (Key Knowledge)	
Is it alive?	
Things can be split into three groups:	• Things that are alive • Things that were alive but are now dead. • Things that have never lived.
Things that are alive	• Are made from cells and show signs of life (see below)
Things that are dead	• Are made from cells. • A wooden table used to be alive as a tree.
Things that never lived	• These are not made from cells • For example, a drain cover is made from particles of metal
How to tell if it is alive. Living things can:	
Move	• For example, animals can run, birds can fly and flowers turn towards light.
Reproduce	• This is when living things have offspring. • For example, animals have babies and plants have seeds which turn into new plants.
Nutrition	• This is where food is used to provide energy. • For example, humans get energy from food. Animals eat plants or other animals. • Green plants make their own food.
Growth	• This is when things get bigger/older. • For example, babies grow into adults. • Seedlings grow into bigger plants.
Habitats	
What is a habitat?	Most living things live in an environment they are suited to. This is their habitat.
Types of habitats	Habitats can be very different. For example they can be: • They can be hot or cold • Wet or Dry • On the ground or up high
Choosing the right habitat	Animals live in habitats that suit them best. • For example, a fish can breathe in water and can swim well so it lives in water. • A worm has brown skin, bristles on its underside to grip and a pointed head. All of these mean that the soil is a good habitat for it to live in.
Examples of animals and plants in their habitats	
Cold habitat	• Polar bear - thick white fur, to keep warm and camouflaged in the snow.
Hot habitat	• The Desert Rat - Large ears to help lose excess body heat. Good hearing and sight in the dark so can hunt at night when the temperature is cooler.
Dry habitat	• The cactus - long roots find water that is deep in the ground. Thin needle leaves don't lose water.
Wet habitat	• The Otter - eyes and nostrils can close underwater. Feet are webbed to help move in the water.

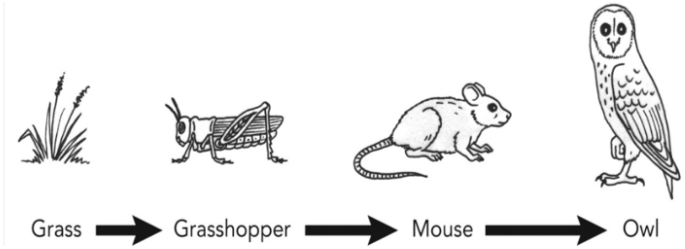
What? (Key Vocabulary)	
Spelling	**Definition/Sentence**
living	things which can grow, move, breathe and reproduce are called living things.
dead	things that are no longer alive
suited	being right or fit for a use, area or group
food chain	describes the order in which organisms, or living things, depend on each other for food
habitats	A habitat is a place that an animal lives, it provides the animal with food, water and shelter.
micro-habitats	is a small-scale, specific habitat which supports the survival of certain animals or plants. For instance, a rockpool or a rotting log.

Take it further at home…

- Conduct and experiment to decide if an object is alive or not (such as a car)
- Investigate habitats in the local environment (such as hedgerows and trees). Investigate micro-habitats such as under stones and under logs
- Construct food chains using given plants and animals
- Investigate the range of impacts should one aspect of the food chain dies out
- Fill in the vocabulary chart – try and do this from memory with them!

Diagram and symbols

Animals get their food from plants and other animals. A food chain shows how energy from food is passed along. Only green plants make their own food, so every food chain starts with a green plant.



Here the Grass has made its own food. The Grasshopper gets energy by eating the grass. The Mouse get energy by eating the Grasshopper and the Owl gets its energy by eating the Mouse.

The arrow on a food chain means 'is food for'

If one element of the food chain changes, this can impact on the rest of the chain.

For example: If a disease killed all of the grasshoppers…

- The grass might grow a lot more as grasshoppers wouldn't be eating it.
- Mice would have to find something else to eat (like corn) which would reduce the amount of corn in fields.
- Pigeons may suffer as there is less corn available to eat.

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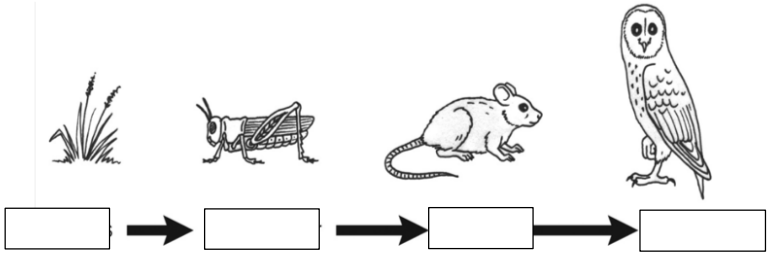

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micro-habitats	

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