

Identifying Local Plants and Animals

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Every region on Earth has its own community of plants and animals.

Scientists use tools called field guides to identify the living things around them. A field guide is a book with descriptions and pictures of local plants and animals that helps you figure out exactly what you are looking at.

Learning to identify organisms by name is an important part of science. When you know the name of something, you can find out more about it. You can learn where it lives, what it eats, how it reproduces, and how it connects to other living things.

Every animal lives in a habitat, which is the specific place that provides everything it needs: food, water, shelter, and space. A rabbit's habitat is open fields and meadows. A fish's habitat is water. A woodpecker's habitat is a forest with trees. If the habitat changes or is destroyed, many of the animals living there cannot survive.

Plants are also adapted to specific environments. A cactus is suited to dry desert conditions. A water lily grows in ponds and lakes. A fern grows in shady, damp forest floors. Each plant grows in the conditions that match what it needs.

Activity 1: Word Sort Challenge

Sort the words in the box. Write each word under the right heading.

WORD BANK

field guide lives woodpecker cactus rabbit shady identify grows local dry

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives

Activity 2: Fix the Run-On

Each of these is really two sentences squished together. Rewrite it the right way.

1. Every region on Earth has its own community of plants and animals scientists use tools called field guides to identify the living things around them.

Correction:

2. Learning to identify organisms by name is an important part of science when you know the name of something, you can find out more about it.

Correction:

Activity 3: Sentence or Not?

Read each one out loud. Write S if it is a complete sentence. Write F if it is only part of a sentence. Then fix each F so it is a complete sentence.

☐

1. A field guide helps you identify plants.

☐

2. Open fields and meadows.

☐

3. A water lily grows in ponds.

☐

4. Food, water, shelter, and space.

First fragment, rewritten:

Second fragment, rewritten:
