

Meadow Habitats - adaptation and evolution

Meadow habitats - adaptation and evolution (May – September only) – This is a half day activity, add a second half day activity to make your own programme for your day at Suntrap. [Click here for KS2 activities.](#)

Visit a local meadow to explore how real invertebrate animals living there are adapted through evolution to their habitat. Threats to the habitat and the impact on the animal species found will be considered in relation to the climate and ecological emergency.



Learning objectives

- to use classification keys to sort animals into different groups according to observable characteristics
- to observe the similarities and differences between characteristics of the animals found in a habitat, giving reasons for classifying them into a certain group
- recognise how the animals studied have adapted to that habitat through evolution
- identify individual animals' adaptations and their purpose
- consider threats to forest habitats (including the climate emergency) and the impact on the animal species found



Some suggestions for visit preparation

1. Introduce important vocabulary; habitat, predator, prey, insect, camouflage, exoskeleton, adaptation, evolution, invertebrate, vertebrate.
2. Discuss how animals breathe on land and in water, body parts/shape that help them move and how animals might protect themselves in their habitat, e.g. camouflage.

Follow on suggestions

1. Design a key to sort animals from a different habitat using observable characteristics.
2. Research how animals in other water habitats are adapted to survive, e.g. the ocean, a river.

National curriculum links

Y6 Science

Living things and their habitats

- describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals
- give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics

Evolution and inheritance

- recognise that living things have changed over time
- identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution



Click [here](#) to read our day visit risk assessment

Bringing nature nearer

