

# What happens when a habitat is changed?

## Fact box

- An environment contains many habitats, e.g. tree, pond, grass.
- Most young are born when the weather is good and food is easy to find.
- Droughts, floods and low temperatures cause natural changes to habitats.
- Man's activities – building, logging, fires, oil spills, pollution – change habitats. Many animals cannot adapt quickly to these changes.
- Sparrows live for 2 to 3 years.

## Aims

- To recognise the way life cycles are affected by environmental changes.
- To understand the difference between fact and opinion.

## Language

- Persuasive texts; Letter writing; Conditional: *could, would*
- Vocabulary: *affect, bird, car park, environment, fact, newspaper, opinion, persuade*

## Extra materials

- 1 copy of the Activity page per pupil, Audio Tracks 23 – 26, Audio texts, IWB

## Warm up

- 1 Write *habitat* on the board. Ask for definitions.
- 2 Display Audio text for Track 23, play Audio Track 23 and ask pupils to listen and follow. Discuss with the class. (Possible answers: polar bear, penguin, seal.)
- 3 Discuss what could happen to the life cycle if there was no snow.
- 4 Display Audio text for Track 24, play Audio Track 24 and ask pupils to listen and follow. Discuss with the class. (Possible answers: bison, rabbit, kangaroo.)
- 5 Ask and discuss: *What could happen if the habitat changed and there was no rain, or a town was built?*
- 6 Ask why most birds live in trees and why they lay their eggs in the spring.

## Procedure

- 1 Hand out the Activity sheets. Play Audio Track 25. Pupils listen and follow. Ask what is going to happen.
- 2 Play Audio Track 26. Pupils listen and follow. Ask what Tom and Anna want to happen.
- 3 Write on the board: *Tom and Anna want to persuade people to keep the park for the birds.* Explain *persuade*. List examples of Tom and Anna's ideas from the letter.
- 4 Allow pupils 5 minutes to underline the persuasive words and phrases and to copy them into the table.
- 5 Write *fact* and *opinion* on the board. Explain the difference between facts and opinions.
- 6 Replay/Reread the newspaper article and letter and ask the pupils for examples of facts and opinions.
- 7 Display the IWB for the pupils to complete the activity.
- 8 Allow 5 to 10 minutes for the pupils to complete the table.

## Follow up

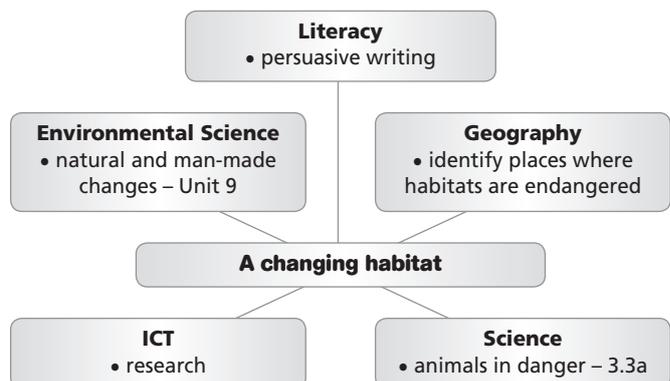
- 1 Discuss how Tom and Anna's letter could be improved.
- 2 Write a short persuasive letter or a blog page asking for action to save the habitat of an endangered animal.
- 3 Find out about environmental projects in your area.

## Useful websites

- [www.sparrowcam.com](http://www.sparrowcam.com)  
Click *SparrowCam Videos*
- [www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips)  
Type 7544, 7521, 2309 or 8987 then click *SEARCH* to watch birds/animals in their habitats
- [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6\\_7/plants\\_animals\\_env.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6_7/plants_animals_env.shtml)
- [www.rspb.org.uk/youth](http://www.rspb.org.uk/youth)  
Click on *PLAY*, on *DISCOVER* and/or on *LEARN*
- [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/english/writing](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/english/writing)  
Use the activities at *Argument*

**Search terms:** birds + habitats, conservation

## Cross curricular links



# What happens when a habitat is changed?

## Read the newspaper



### T25 The End of the Old Park

This is your last chance to go to the Old Park. Next week the Old Park will be turned into a car park. The beautiful 100-year-old trees will be cut down. The grass and flower beds will be dug up. In two weeks' time there will be space for 50 cars to park but there will be no green space for people, birds and animals to enjoy.

### T26 Dear Readers,

We think it is a bad thing that the Old Park is going to be made into a car park. We think it should be stopped. We would like the park to stay as it is now, because so many birds live there. It is a good habitat for them in the spring.

If we must have a new car park why do the trees have to be cut down so soon? Many birds have nests in those trees. Many



eggs have hatched and the baby birds need to eat the caterpillars that are on the flower beds now. It is too late for them to start their life cycle again in another

place. Many small birds only live two years so next year there will be no new adults to lay eggs. We shall miss having the birds around.

If the park must be destroyed please, please, please help us to find a way to keep the trees and flowers for a few more weeks until this year's baby birds can leave the nest.

Yours faithfully,  
Tom and Anna

## Write some of the persuasive words and phrases from the letter here:


## Reread the newspaper article and the letter and write 2 facts and 2 opinions here:

Fact
Fact
Opinion
Opinion