

**Habitat is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism. Animals need five things to survive in a habitat: food, water, shelter, air and a place to raise their young.**

### Different species have different habitat needs



Different types of plants and animals have different habitat needs, just as we do.

Some require only tiny habitats like starfish, whilst others need huge territories to roam across like tigers. Some need rocky tidal pools to live in like blue-ring octopus, others can only live in tropical rainforests such as spider monkeys, whilst some like dry deserts like camels.

Every species is specially adapted to live in certain habitat types.

### Habitat loss

If an animal's habitat becomes unsuitable it will try and move to a different area in search of a new home. Historically, this was due to extreme weather events such as fires or floods, but today we are the major reason why animals are forced to leave their homes. We clear habitat to build houses and buildings; we construct fences and roads which prevent animals from moving easily from one habitat patch to another, and we litter and pollute the air and water making it unsuitable as habitat.



### Tree hollows

Tree hollows serve as vital habitat for many native animals. They provide nesting sites for native bees, gliders and birds, homes for invertebrates, places in which animals can shelter from bad weather and damp areas for young plants to grow in. Hollows take hundreds of years to form so only very old trees contain them. Sadly, these ancient trees are disappearing in many parts of Australia due to land clearing for development and farms, and logging. Nest boxes are used to try and replace lost tree hollows but it is far more beneficial to never remove the trees in the first place!