



# Protecting Local Habitats

## Carry out a habitat survey

**Habitat survey:** An investigation to discover what wildlife and other living things (e.g. plants, trees and flowers) can be found in an area.

**Step 1:** Decide which area you are going to survey, for example:

- A local woodland
- A local forest
- Your front or back garden.

**Step 2:** Visit the area and record all the different types of wildlife that you can find. You could record your findings in a number of different ways, for example:



### Photograph

- Plant and animal species
- Microhabitats e.g. a single leaf, under a log



### Sketch

- Plants and animals
- Leaf shapes
- Bark rubbings



### Record sounds

- Birdsong
- Human disturbance like traffic

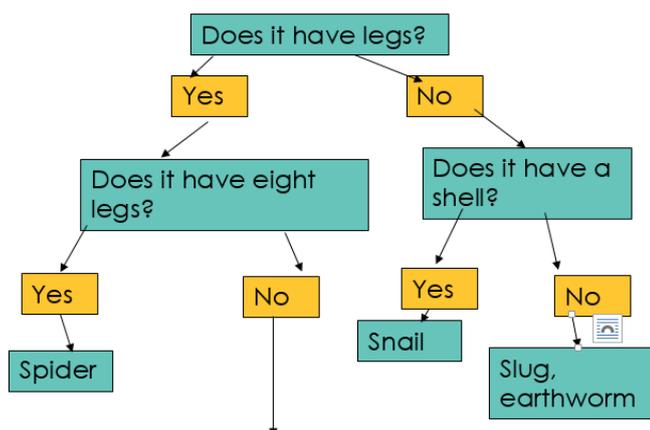


### Film

- Animal movements

**Step 3:** Analyse what you found.

- **Picture Identification** - Use books, the internet or nature apps to check your findings.
- **Keys** - Answer questions to discover what you have found, for example:



**The following organisations have developed apps to help identify wildlife:**

- The Woodland Trust
- The Wildlife Trust
- Forestry Commission
- The Natural History Museum



# Protecting Local Habitats

## Develop a micro-habitat at home

**Micro-habitat:** A small home environment for plants, animals and insects. For example:



A bug hotel gives food and shelter to insects.



Rotting logs and leaves feed lots of insects and grow fungi.



As they grow trees can provide a habitat to insects, birds and bats.



Ponds can attract frogs and provide water for many species.



Wildflowers attract pollinating insects.

**Identify an area where you live and build your own micro-habitat. Use the worksheet provided to help with your planning. Then use the template provided to make a habitat protection pledge.**



# Protecting Local Habitats

## Develop a micro-habitat at home

### Planning

1. What microhabitat(s) could we make at home?

2. What resources would be needed to make the microhabitat?

3. Where would you put the microhabitat?

4. How would you protect the microhabitat?

5. How would the microhabitat benefit local wildlife?

6. How would the microhabitat benefit you and your family?



# Protecting Local Habitats

## Taking Responsibility

Record your habitat protection pledge and decorate your leaf. Then encourage everyone in your household to create a habitat protection pledge.

