



WILD THINGS



A woodland or forest is an area mainly covered by trees. Trees provide oxygen that humans and other animals need to survive.

In the UK, there are many forests and woodlands around the country.

In a woodland habitat there are lots of trees that grow close together. Most British woodlands are deciduous, which means the leaves fall off the trees in winter. The fallen leaves provide food and shelter for many creatures and rot into the soil, making it rich and full of nutrients.

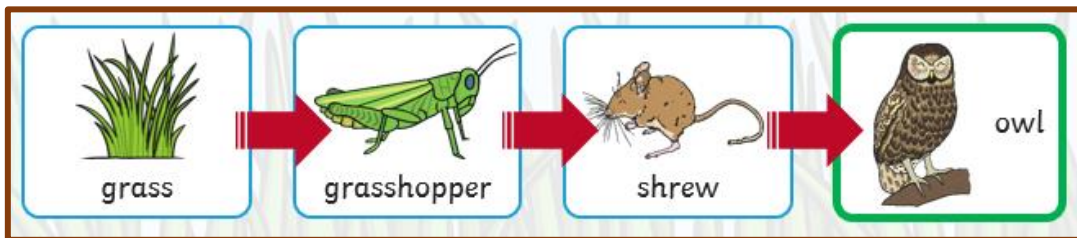


Many animals and birds live in UK forests and woodlands including squirrels, foxes, badgers, moles, wild rabbits, red deer, hedgehogs, dormice, bats, owls, woodpeckers and snakes. There are also beavers, otters, pole cats and wild boar, though these are less common.



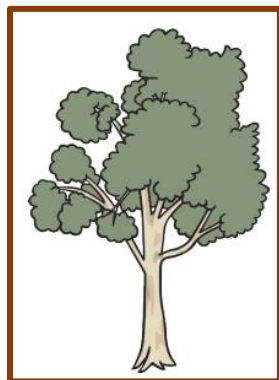
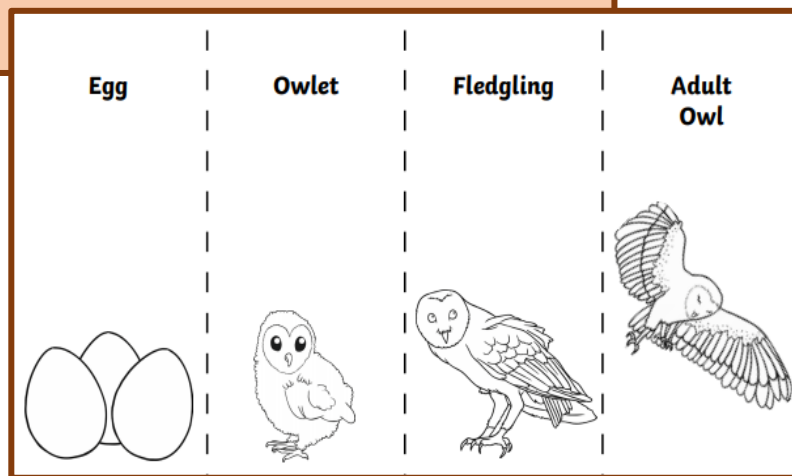
Key Vocabulary

	habitat	The natural home of an animal or plant.
	food chain	This shows the transfer of energy.
	environment	The surroundings of where an animal or plant lives.
	micro-habitat	A small part of a larger habitat. E.g. a fallen log
	survival	The techniques animals use to stay alive and safe.
	offspring	An animal's young.
	fieldwork	Practical work within a natural environment.
	observation	Looking closely at something or someone.



How do animals grow and change?

The image below shows the life cycle of an owl. It begins with the female owl laying an egg or eggs. The eggs are incubated until they are ready to hatch. The owlet then feeds and grows into a fledgling. This is when the owl learns to feed and hunt by itself. If the owl is female, it then grows until it is ready to lay eggs and the cycle begins again.



What is a Food Chain?

A food chain shows producers and consumers. A consumer can be a predator, prey or both. The arrow means 'is food for'.

Animals and plants depend on each other to survive. For example, worms depend on plants because they feed on dead leaves, but plants depend on worms who make the soil healthy by digging holes and allowing air in. All living things (or things that were once living) have a part to play in food chains. Without them, other animals and plants may not be able to survive.

This is an aerial view or birds' eye view of our school and the surrounding area. This area contains many habitats and micro-habitats that are home to thousands of creatures.



Can you think of any habitats or micro-habitats that can be found within our school grounds? How can we improve these areas to encourage wildlife to use it and make it their home?