

## 6<sup>th</sup> - Habitat of Living II



**Habitat-** The area where a particular organism lives naturally is called its habitat. A habitat consists of both abiotic and biotic environments. Both these are essential for the survival of an organism. For example, some of the components that must be present in the habitat of a tiger are as follows.

- Animals that the tiger can hunt and feed upon.
- Plants in the form of shady trees where it can rest, and shrubs where it can hide and wait for its prey.
- Sufficient rainfall and suitable temperature for the tiger and other animals and plants to survive.

The five major habitats are -forest, grasslands, deserts, mountains and Polar Regions, and aquatic .oceans and freshwater together form the aquatic habitat.

**Forests-** forests are large areas covered with plants. Forest cover about one third of our planet.

There are three major types of forest on earth; tropical, temperate and boreal.

(a) **Tropical Forest** -tropical forest also known as rainforest are found between the equator and the two tropics. The temperature of these forest ranges from 20° C to 34° C. Example- **Plants** orchid, vine, moss and fern **Animals-** bat, gorilla monkey

(b) **Temperate Forest** - the temperature of these region range from -30° C to 30° C most trees found here are deciduous ,that is they shed their leaves once a year temperate forest have well defined winter and summer season .

**Examples Plants-** maple, oak

**Animals-** fox, mountain lion

(c) **Boreal Forest** - boreal forest are also called taiga .these forest are characterized by very low temperatures between 50c and 30c

Example- **Plants-** pine, fir

**Animals-** wolf, fox

**Grasslands-** Grasslands are region dominated by grasses the annual rainfall varies between 50 and 90cm grassland provide shelter to a large variety of animals including giraffe zebra

**Deserts-** Deserts are areas that receive very little rain fall annual rain fall is less than 25 cm .organisms like cactus camel

**Mountains And Polar Regions:**

Earth Polar Regions and tall mountains are extremely cold. The lowest temperature recorded ever in the Antarctic is 88c **Animals** like polar bear penguin seal

**Aquatic Habitat:**

the aquatic comprises all the water bodies on the planet. It is mainly of three kinds of fresh water marine and coastal

**Fresh Water:**

Rivers, lakes ponds and streams are example of fresh water habitat

**Marine habitat:**

Oceans and seas form the largest habitat on the planet. Fish, whale, shark jellyfish

**Coastal Habitat-** Coastal Habitat refers to the region where the land meets the sea

**Estuaries:**

are region where saltwater (from the ocean) mixes with fresh water (from rivers or streams) thus unique habitats provide shelter to servile marine animals and birds.

**Coral Reefs:**

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Coral reefs are rock like structures made from calcium carbonate secreted by corals. They are also called rain forests of the sea. Starfish, Octopus, sea urchins and a variety of fish are found in coral reefs.

**Adaptations;** changes in the structure or behavior of an organism that allow it to survive in a particular habitat are called adaptations

Organisms adapt to their habitat by the following means;

1. Changes in body.
2. Changes in behavior.
3. Changes in location.

### Adaptations for Tropical Forest (Rain Forest)

#### Plants-

1. Leaves of tropical rainforest trees have specialized tips, called drip tips, drip tips enable raindrops to run off quickly
2. Due to the dense vegetation of rainforest, very little light is able to reach the forest floor.

#### Animals-

1. There is huge variety of animals found in rain forest. Therefore the competition for food is very high
2. The sloth exhibits camouflage the ability of certain animals to blend with the surrounding making them difficult to spot is called camouflage.

### Adaptations For Temperate Forest

**Plants-** most trees are deciduous they have thin broad leaves that allow them to easily capture sunlight which is required for making food

**Animals-** many animals either hibernate or migrate to warmer region during winter

### Adaptations For Boreal Forests-

**Plants:** following are the adaptations shown by plants in boreal forest

Boreal forest receive heavy snowfall trees have a conical shapes which allow the snow to slide off easily

Most trees found in boreal forest is evergreens. Trees have narrow needle like leaves

**Animals:** most boreal animals migrate to warmer region during winter

Some animals have a thick layer of fur or feathers to protect themselves from cold

