



Vocabulary

- Habitats
- Living things
- Animals

Learning Question:

How can I investigate and explain how a habitat provides what an animal needs to survive?

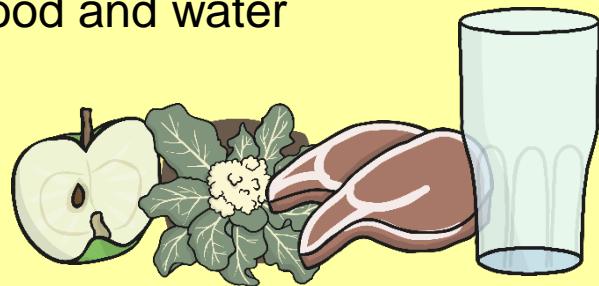
Success Criteria:

- Understand that different animals need different habitats to survive.
- To be able to recall the key features that a habitat is required to be in order for survival.
- Investigate the school environment and find a woodlouse habitat
- Create a fact file on woodlice and their habitats, explaining how they able to survive there.

Why are habitats important?

Habitats are important to stay alive and healthy, all other living things need certain conditions.

Food and water



Space to move, grow and have young



Air or oxygen



Shelter and safety



These are the basic needs that are shared by all living things.

If you can go into your garden try and find some woodlice. If you can't go outside don't worry there will be information on the next side about woodlice habitats.

We are going to be looking at their natural habitats and make some notes and sketches of their habitat before we come back inside and create a fact file about them.



Woodlice

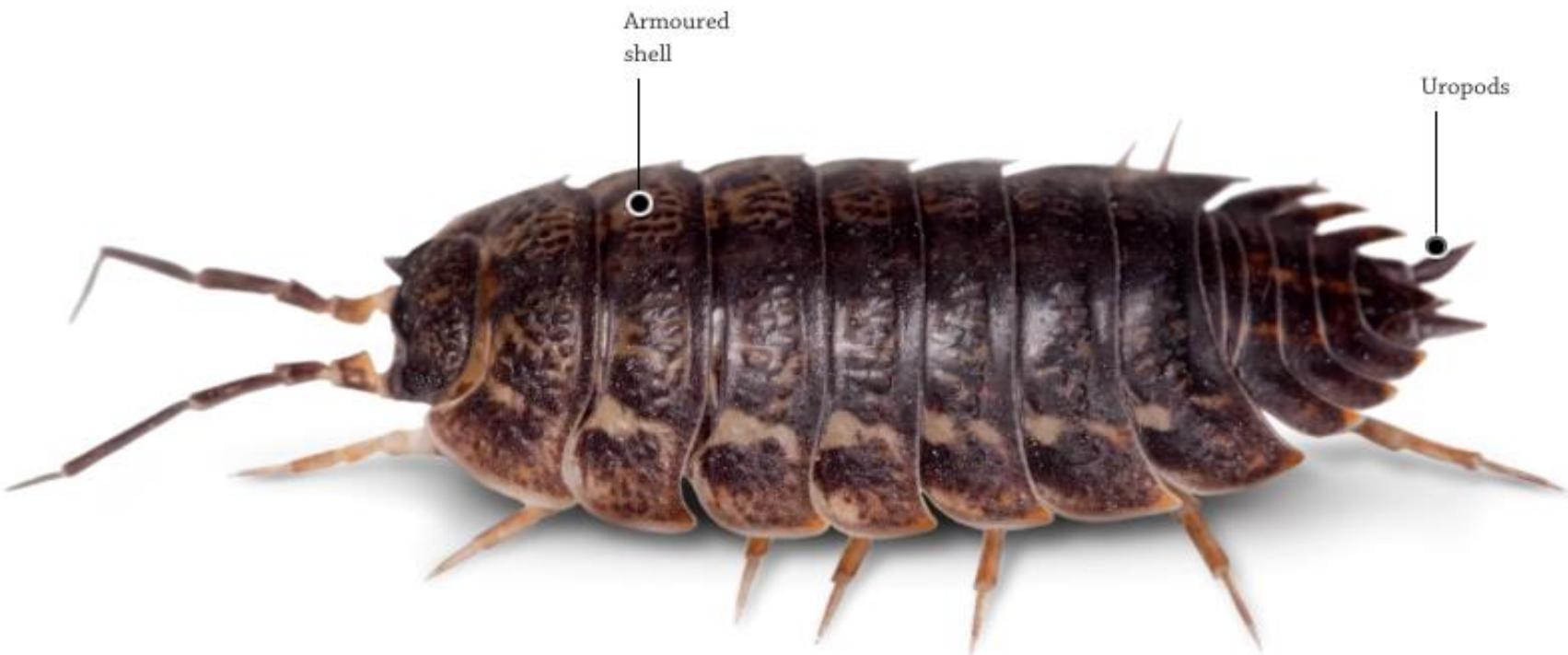


Woodlice are also known as slaters, sow bugs, or pill bugs. They are relatives of prawns and crabs, and are known as crustaceans. They have segmented bodies and a hard outer layer. While most crustaceans live in water, woodlice live on land but breathe through gills like fish. Their gills need to be covered with a thin layer of water to work well, so they prefer to live in places with a lot of moisture. These creatures are found in cool, damp areas, such as under fallen leaves in flowerbeds. They feed on decaying leaves and pieces of rotting wood.

Woodlice moult, which means they shed their old skin and grow new skin. They then eat their old skin!

Watch this video about woodlice

<https://youtu.be/JjX2pO6irGg>



Common woodlouse

Woodlice may look like insects, but in fact they're crustaceans and are related to crabs and lobsters. It's thought there are about 3,500 species of woodlice in the world, and 35-40 of these can be found in the British Isles. Woodlice are sometimes called pill bugs and slaters. The pill woodlouse gets its name because it can roll itself up into a ball.

Woodlice like damp, dark places and can be found hiding in walls, under stones and in compost heaps. Some species such as the common sea slater are only found on the coast.

A woodlouse has 14 legs and an outer shell called an exoskeleton. When a woodlouse grows too big for its exoskeleton it has to moult to allow a new shell to take its place. Moulting takes place in two stages, first the back half is shed and a day or so later the front half falls off.

They have a pair of antennae to help them find their way around, and two small 'tubes', called uropods, sticking out the back of their bodies. The uropods help them navigate and some species use them to produce chemicals to discourage predators. Most woodlice are found on land, but their ancestors used to live in water and woodlice still breathe using gills.

Woodlice eat rotting plants, fungi and their own faeces, but they don't pee! They get rid of their waste by producing strong-smelling chemical called ammonia, which passes out through their shells as a gas.

Females carry their eggs in a small brood pouch under their bodies. The eggs hatch inside the pouch and stay there until they are big enough to survive on their own.
A common woodlouse can live for three-four years. As well as humans, its main predators are centipedes, toads, shrews and spiders.

Task

Create a fact file about a habitat
and how an animal is able to live there.

You can complete this task on Purple Mash or on a Word document
that you can ask an adult to email to me.

Hard	Use the heading 'Woodlice and Where to Find Them' and the following subheadings: Type of Habitat, Location, Facts about Woodlice,
Harder	Create a fact file using your own headings and subheadings and picture/diagram.
HARDEST	Write a paragraph about the woodlice habitat and explain how it is suited for them to live there. Include a picture/diagram.