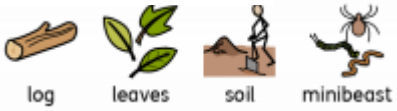
Year 2 Living things and their habitats

Key Enquiry Questions	Key Facts
• What is a habitat?	• A habitat is a place where living things, such as animals and plants, can find all of the things they need to survive. This includes food, water, air, space to move and grow and some shelter. • Some habitats are large, like the ocean, and some are very small, such as under a log. • Some habitats in our local area include stream/river woodlands and hedgerow/farm fields. Other habitats include the coast and desert.
• What is a micro-habitat?	• Microhabitats are very small habitats where minibeasts may live. • Examples of microhabitats include under stones, in grass, under fallen leaves and in the soil. • Minibeasts that can be found there include worms, snails, ants, centipedes, millipedes and butterflies and they help to keep the microhabitat healthy. • Minibeasts are able to survive in their habitats because they can find the things they need to survive there, such as food and water. For example, caterpillars can survive on leaves as they give them food.
• How do animals and plants depend on each other?	• 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. • Birds also need worms because they eat them. Worms are a source of food for birds. • This called a food chain. • If there were no worms, there would be less birds as there would be more competition for food. The soil would not be as healthy without worms. • 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.

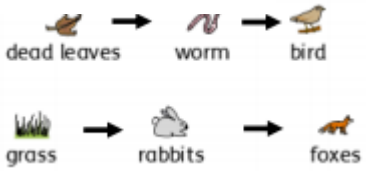
Key Vocabulary	
alive	Living.
biomes	A natural area of vegetation and animals that makes up a habitat.
bright	Giving out or reflecting much light; shining.
carnivore	An animal that eats meat.
cold	Of a low or relatively low temperature.
conditions	The circumstances affecting the way in which things live e.g. mushrooms like warm, damp, dark conditions to grow.
damp	Slightly wet.
dark	With little or no light.
dead	No longer alive.
depend	If you depend on someone or something, you need them in order to be able to survive physically.
food chain	A series of living things which are linked to each other because each thing feeds on the one next to it in the series.
habitat	The natural environment in which an animal or plant normally lives or grows.
healthy	In good physical or mental condition.
herbivore	An animal that only eats plants.
hot	Having a high degree of heat or high temperature.
invertebrate	A creature that does not have a spine, for example an insect, a worm or an octopus.
living	To be alive.
microhabitat	A small part of the environment that supports a habitat, such as a fallen log in a forest.
minibeasts	A small invertebrate animal such as an insect or spider.
non-living	An object that has never been alive e.g. chair.
offspring	A person's children or an animal's young.
omnivore	Animal that eats all kinds of food, including both meat and plants. Humans are usually omnivores.
plant	A living thing that grows usually in the earth and has a stem, leaves and roots.
shade	Comparative darkness and coolness caused by shelter from direct sunlight.
source	Where something comes from.
tree	A tall plant that has a hard trunk, branches and leaves.
vegetation	Plants, trees and flowers.
vertebrate	A creature which has a spine.
warm	A fairly or comfortably high temperature.

Habitats

Micro-habitats



Food chains



Investigate(suggestions)

- Observe carefully a microhabitat and sketch the plants and minibeasts you find. Can you find any evidence of plants being eaten?
- Make a bug hotel / microhabitat.
- Compare two different habitats / microhabitats and explain what animals and plants can be found there. Answer questions such as 'Why would a polar bear not survive in the desert?'
- Go on a minibeast hunt. What minibeasts can you find? Why can they survive in their habitat? Create a tally chart or pictogram to show your results.
- Create simple food chains that begin with a plant. Discuss what would happen if one of those living things in a food chain did not exist.