

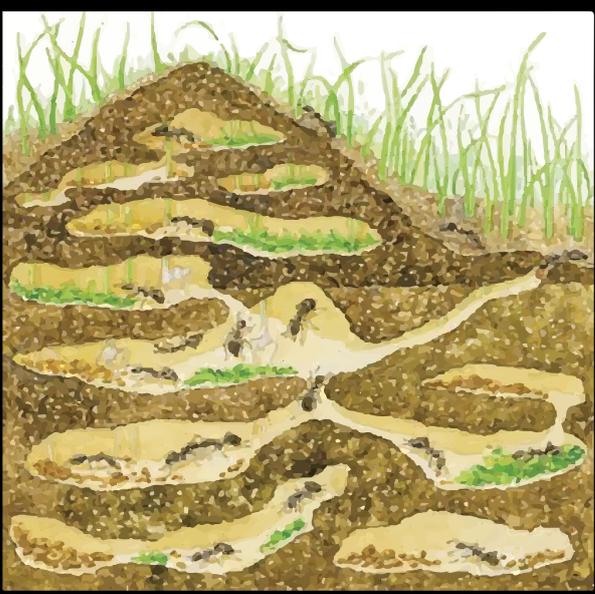
Amazing Animal Architects

Web Design

Many spider species build sticky webs where they can live and catch food at the same time. Their home doubles up as a food trap! Some spiders' webs are even long enough to cross rivers.

Did you know? A single strand of spider silk is thinner than a human hair, but also five times stronger than steel of the same width.

A rope of spider silk just 5cm thick could stop a large airplane! Researchers now take inspiration from spider silk to design medical devices that need to be strong and stretchy.



Gi-Ant Hills

Ants work together to build their sophisticated hills. They move soil crumb by crumb, using their jaws (mandibles) to excavate earth to build tunnels. Ant hills come in many forms and each one is unique. Some ants build using pebbles and sand, others use plant and tree material. In woodlands, for example, they are often built using pine needles.

Fun Fact: The temperature inside an ant hill can stay very warm, 26-28°C, even in the middle of a cold, snowy winter!

Cool Caves

Bats live in caves because of their cool stable temperatures, peace and quiet and to protect them from danger. Bats are nocturnal, which means they fly and look for food at night. Caves are a perfect safe place for them to sleep during the day.

Fun Fact: Bats always turn left when leaving a cave!

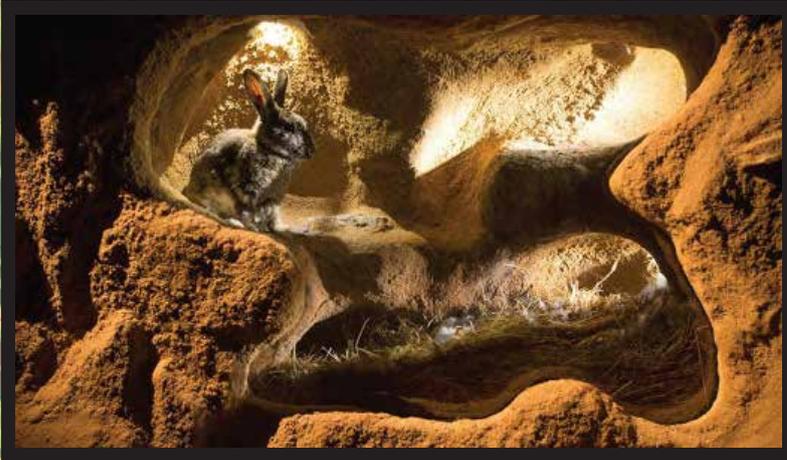


Dazzling Diggers

Lots of animals create burrows under the ground to live in.



Meerkats live together in families of 20-30 in a burrow.



Rabbits live in warrens. You may be able to spot entrances to these when walking in the countryside.

Inside the warrens there are nest sites lined with grass, moss and even rabbit fur! Perfect for new-born bunnies!



Tortoises live in burrows too. These protect them from predators, fire and the weather.

Can you think of any other animals that live in underground?



Trapdoor Spiders dig a vertical burrow, camouflaged using twigs and soil. They wait in their tunnel home until they feel vibrations produced by passing prey, when they rush through the trapdoor and gobble them up!

Fun Fact: Some dinosaurs used to dig too! A 110 million year old dinosaur burrow has been discovered in southeastern Australia. That's VERY VERY old!

Marine Manors

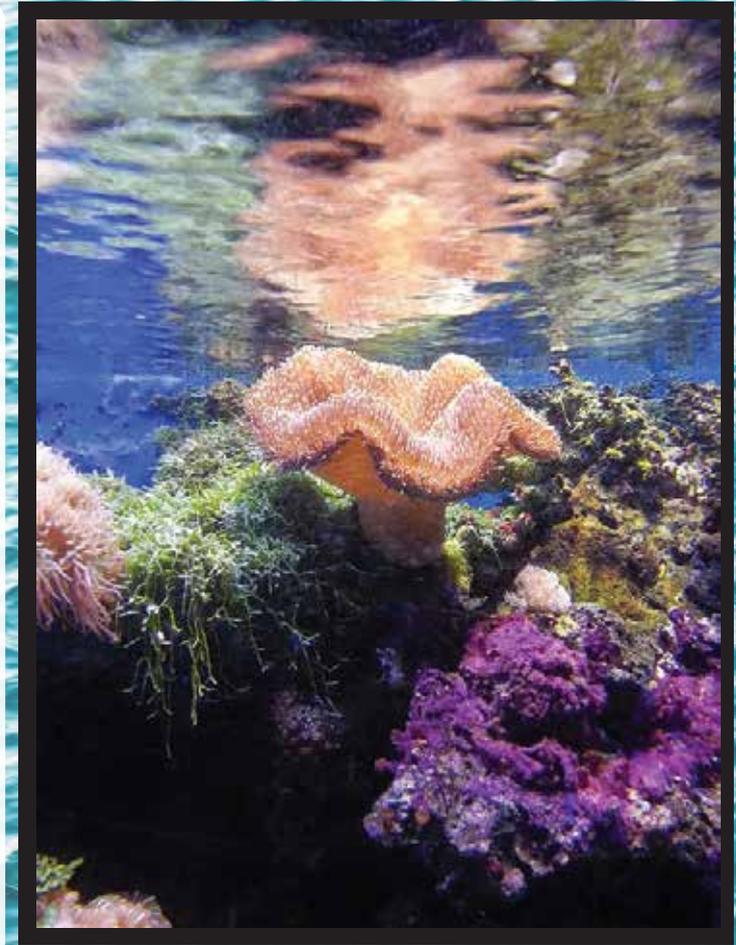
Deep Sea Living

Scientists estimate that there are 1 million species of animals living in the ocean! While there are big ones, such as sharks, dolphins and whales, they are mostly different types of **invertebrates**, like sponges, marine worms, jelly fish and shrimps.

Did you know?

*Coral reefs are the most diverse **ecosystem** in the ocean, home to 25% of all ocean plants and animals.*

*They are actually made by tiny builders like **panula** (baby coral) forming stony coral polyps filled with microscopic algae, called **zooxanthellae**. Each polyp is only 1.5cm wide and when they die they leave behind their stony cup and new corals grow on top. No wonder coral reefs take thousands of years to form!*



Mobile Homes

Some animals carry their homes around with them! Shells are mobile homes that give animals extra protection from **predators** and environmental dangers. What animals can you think of that have shell homes?

Did you know?

Some animals, such as Hermit crabs, borrow their home by occupying an empty mollusc shell. When it grows too large for its borrowed shell it moves into a new, larger one.



Fun Fact: Coconut octopuses carry around empty coconut shells and to use as mobile homes! If they need to hide quickly the octopus can squeeze inside 2 coconut shells pulled together. You would never know they were there!

Homes Up High

Tired? Have a Nest

Nests come in all shapes and sizes and are homes for many different animals. Birds nests provide a place where eggs can be incubated and kept warm, as well as a shelter for young birds.

Red Oven Birds build amazing nests using clay and mud, while the **Edible-nest Swiftlet** makes theirs entirely out of their saliva.

Hummingbirds build a tiny, knot-like structure out of bark, leaf strands attached to a tree branch with spider silk. They line their nests with hair of feathers for warmth and decorate the outside with lichen for camouflage.

Tree Squirrels or **Flying Squirrels** nest in dreys.

These are usually built of twigs, dry leaves and grass in the forks of a tall tree. Squirrels can also live in dens in tree cavities.

What other nests do you know or can find out about?



Red oven bird



Edible nest swiftlet



Hummingbird



Squirrel den

Did you know?

Apes, like chimpanzees, orangutans and gorillas also build nests to sleep in at night! They make them out of branches and leaves.



Un-bee-lievable

Honey bees build natural hives in caves and rock or tree cavities to hide themselves from **predators**. The beehives most people think of are man-made ones, called apiaries, for domesticated honey bees.

Beehives have hexagonal cells in them making honeycomb. Worker honey bees make wax in their abdomens and then mold it to build the honeycomb.

Honey bees are sociable and live in large groups called colonies. The average beehive holds 50,000 bees!



Abdomen



Did you know?

Bees in colder climates, such as European honey bees, store larger amounts of honey as they need this to survive winter. During winter the bees consume honey to produce heat and warm the colony.



Brilliant Builders

Can't Beat a Beaver

Beaver's are nature's engineers. They use their sharp teeth to quickly cut down trees and branches to dam streams and create a peaceful pond. In the pond they build a lodge home from branches, sticks and mud. These lodges even have hidden underwater entrances, creating a secret base to protect them from **predators!**

*Did you know? A beaver family can build a dam 10m long and 3m high in 1 week!
The largest known damn is 1 kilometre long, about the same as a 12 minute walk!*



Living on a Cliff-Edge

Puffins make homes on steep cliff sides, to keep predators away. At the back of their burrows they make a soft nest, and they even make room for a toilet area at the first bend!

Fun Fact: A puffin's beak (or bill) changes colour during the year! It is most colourful during the spring breeding season, but shed the bright outer layer before winter hits.

Look Out!

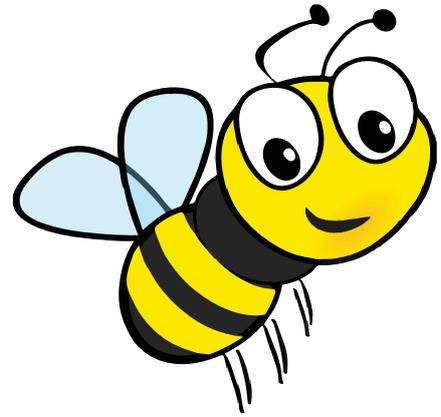


Animal homes are everywhere. We can't always see them. Imagine how many homes could there be in one tree? There could be all sorts of homes: bird nests, squirrel dreys, wood bark lice and spider webs, mice living in the soft earth around roots and more!
Can you spot any outside?

Tii-Hee-Hee

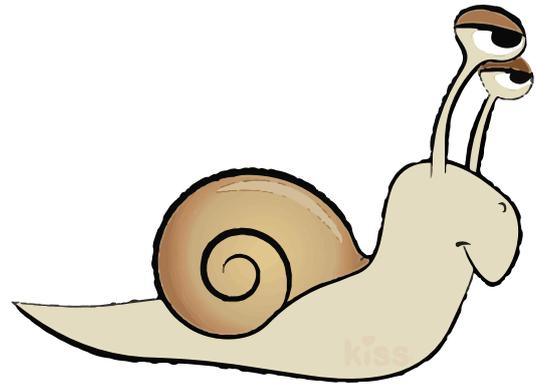
What did one bee say to the other when they landed on the same flower?

Buzz off!



Teacher: "Can anyone tell me what sort of animal a slug is?"

Pupil: "It's a snail with a housing problem!"



What animal can jump higher than a house?

Any animal. A house can't jump!





Impawtant Words



Ecosystem

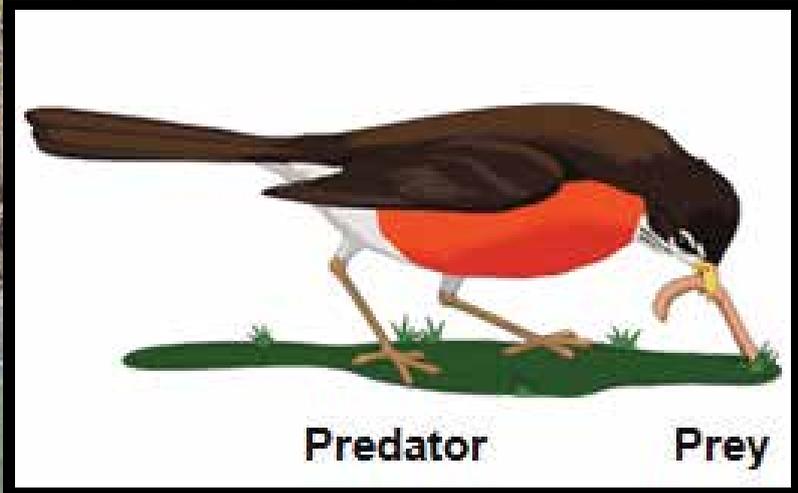
All the living (e.g. animals and plants) and non-living (e.g. rocks, soil and water) things in an area.

Invertebrates

Animals without a backbone or internal skeleton.

Predators

An animal who kills and eats other animals (its prey)



Examples of Invertebrates

Match the Animal to its Home



Ant



Lion



Bear



Bee



Porpoise



Squirrel



Horse



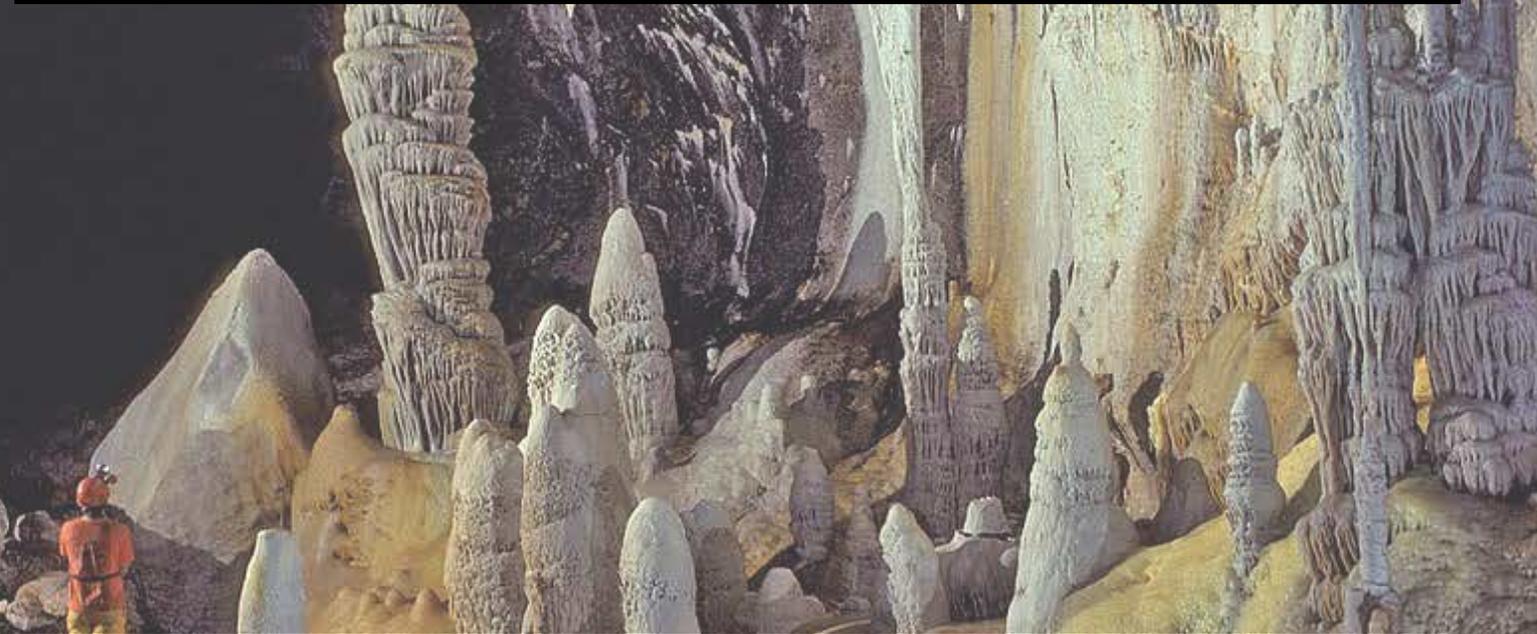
Rabbit



Koala



Spider



Cave



Stable



Hill



Web



Tree



Sea



Drey



Hive



Den



Burrow

Answers

Horse - Stable // Spider - Web // Rabbit - Burrow // Bee - Hive // Squirrel - Drey // Porpoise - Sea // Squirrel - Drey // Snail - Shell
 Bear - Cave // Ant - Hill // Koala - Tree // Lion - Den