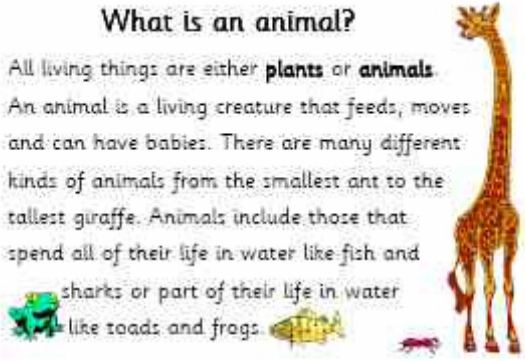


# 174. Animal Homes Posters and Pictures - A4 and A5 to print

## Set One - 18 Posters with information.


### What is an animal?

All living things are either **plants** or **animals**. An animal is a living creature that feeds, moves and can have babies. There are many different kinds of animals from the smallest ant to the tallest giraffe. Animals include those that spend all of their life in water like fish and sharks or part of their life in water like toads and frogs.




Animals use different parts of their bodies as tools. Their sharp beaks, strong legs, teeth and claws can build, weave and dig.

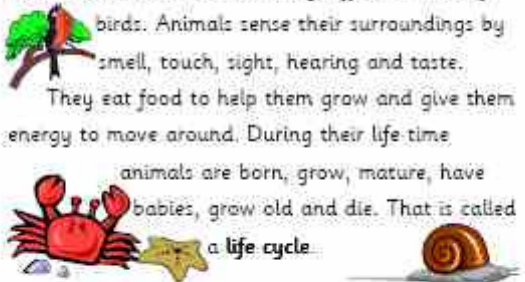
They make their homes of all kinds of materials. They might use grass, leaves, twigs, mud, wood, shells or stones.




Some animals make their homes in high places. Nests on cliffs or on rocky ledges make very safe homes. Puffins make a home for their babies on the cliffs but sometimes they dig a burrow instead and lay just one egg. Golden eagles make their nest from twigs on rocky ledges high up in the mountains. They return every year at nesting time.




Animals include creatures like crabs and starfish as well as snails, worms and many different kinds of birds. Animals sense their surroundings by smell, touch, sight, hearing and taste. They eat food to help them grow and give them energy to move around. During their life time animals are born, grow, mature, have babies, grow old and die. That is called a **life cycle**.




Animals make their homes in every kind of place, hot or cold, wet or dry. Many animals make their homes in trees. They might use the leaves, the branches, the trunk or even the roots of a tree to make their home in. Homes in trees are not always the same.




Many animals live together in large groups; it's safer and they can help each other to make homes. Wasps live together in large groups. They help each other to build paper nests. Ants live in a colony and build a nest where they all live and work together. Their nests have lots of chambers where they keep eggs, larvae, food and even rubbish!



Some animals, like the burrowing owl, make their homes underground where they are protected from the weather and safely hidden from their enemies. Animals that live near rivers dig out their homes in the riverbank. Other animals live in the sea.




Sometimes different animals live together. They share the same home. The osprey or fish hawk builds a large nest with sticks and branches at the top of a dead tree. Smaller birds like wrens and sparrows build their homes in the side of the osprey's nest. The osprey is a bird of prey but it eats only fish, so all the birds live happily together.

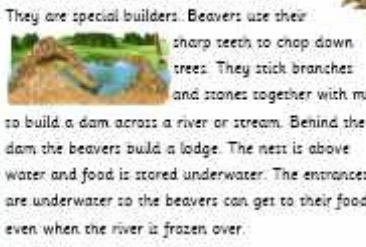


### Do animals have homes?


Just as you need a home, many animals need a home too. Homes of all shapes and sizes give animals warmth, shelter and protection. They are places to eat, sleep and raise a family. Animals must always be on the look out for danger. They might be the next meal for a hungry hunter so they build homes to protect themselves or their babies.



Some animals build their homes in water. They are special builders. Beavers use their sharp teeth to chop down trees. They stick branches and stones together with mud to build a dam across a river or stream. Behind the dam the beavers build a lodge. The nest is above water and food is stored underwater. The entrances are underwater so the beavers can get to their food even when the river is frozen over.




Some animals don't need to make a home, they carry their home with them. A snail has a shell that is part of its body. Wherever it goes, its shell goes too, giving it shelter and protection. Tortoises and turtles also have shells. Their shells grow bigger as they grow. When they are in danger they pull their heads and legs up into their shell. Their shells are very hard and protect their body.



The hermit crab doesn't grow its own shell. It lives in empty shells that it finds especially when it grows too big for one shell it searches for a bigger one. If the new shell fits, it climbs inside but this is dangerous time for the hermit crab. Hermit crabs withdraw deep inside their shells when danger is near and guard the opening with their one pincer.



Wild stumpgrasses move around in the forest searching for food. Every night they sleep in a new place. They build a nest high up in the trees. They make a platform made of broken branches then bend twigs over it for a roof. Then they use leafy branches to make a comfortable bed on the platform.



Brown bears make a winter den. The bear either digs a den under a rock or finds a cave. It spends the winter asleep in its den and has cubs in the spring. The dormouse stores food in a hole but makes an entrance for its babies. In winter, dormice have an underground hole where they sleep curled in a ball in a nest of grass.



Some animals have a special resting place for sleeping. Sea otters live in the sea but have no special home. They lie in grass close to the shore near beds of seaweed called eelgrass. When they want to sleep, they wrap themselves up in the long strands of seaweed to keep themselves drifting away from each other.



As some animals move from place to place they build or find new homes to live in. Killer bees fly in swarms searching for food. Wherever they land, the bees find a new home. It might be an empty box, a tin can, a crack in a building or an empty burrow. Army ants also carry out swarms, raids. They make their homes in hollow trees or under rocks and stay there for up to three weeks.



Some animals don't have a home for most of the year but build a home when they have babies. These birds are called oven birds. They make strong mud nests that are waterproof. They build from the bottom upwards in layers of mud until their nest looks like a dome. Hermit crabs make a safe home for their young in a hole in a tree where they will be safe from attack by snakes and manhags.



Most animals build their own homes but some animals don't. Blenny fish (in shrimp) are often found in rock pools and they use any hole or burrow they can find. Anywhere they can find shelter - a crack in a rock, under stones, even in a broken bottle on the seabed can be used as a home by the little fish.



LOW QUALITY SAMPLES