

Vocabulary	Meaning
adaptation	the process by which an organism becomes better suited to its environment
dormancy	a deep sleep
hibernation	the period of an animal or plant spending the winter in a dormant state
migration	movement of animals from one area to another
Greenhouse Effect	a process that occurs when gases in the Earth's atmosphere are trapped in the Sun's heat
Carbon Dioxide	a colourless and odourless gas present in the air
Meteorologist	someone who studies the weather of an area
natural disaster	a natural event that causes damage or loss of life
Avalanche	a mass of snow/ice/rocks falling rapidly down a mountain
Hurricane	a storm with a violent wind
catastrophic	causing great/sudden damage or suffering
Volcano	a mountain or hill, having a crater through which lava, rocks fragments or vapour erupt from the Earth's crust
Global Warming	a gradual increase in the Earth's temperature
Ecosystem	a biological community of organisms
pollution	introduction of something to the environment which has a harmful or poisonous effect
sewage	waste water transported in sewers

Ecosystems	Pollution	Erosion	Deforestation
			

### Key knowledge – What is a habitat?



Why is it important that living things adapt to suit their environments?.

A habitat is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. Animals and plants are adapted to suit the environments in which they live and some adapt further depending on the season. For example, the snowshoe hare would not survive in its Arctic habitat if it was the colour of the European brown hare all year round, but it also would not survive if it was white during the summer months.

### Key knowledge – What impact do natural disasters have on the environment?



Natural disasters are naturally occurring events which can cause massive change to our environment. Key questions we will explore:

What happens when there is a drought?  
Why is flooding so dangerous?  
How do natural disasters have a positive effect on ecosystems?