

Habitats and Adaptations

Chapter 2: Diversity in the Living World · Topic 2

Key Concept

Physical adaptations include things like fur thickness, beak shape, or camouflage colouring, while behavioural adaptations include migration, hibernation, or nocturnal (night-time) activity to avoid extreme daytime heat. Polar bears have thick white fur for insulation and camouflage in snowy Arctic habitats, while desert foxes have large ears to release excess body heat. When a habitat changes rapidly — due to deforestation or climate change — organisms that cannot adapt quickly enough may struggle to survive.

Quick Revision Notes

- A habitat is the natural home of an organism.
- Adaptations are features that help organisms survive in their specific habitat.
- Adaptations can be physical (body structure) or behavioural (actions).
- Polar bears (thick fur) and desert foxes (large ears) show adaptations to extreme habitats.

Practice Questions

- 1 Name one adaptation of a camel that helps it survive in the desert.
- 2 Compare a physical adaptation with a behavioural adaptation, giving one example of each.
- 3 What might happen to an organism if its habitat changes very quickly?