

Variety in Living Organisms

Chapter 2: Diversity in the Living World · Topic 1

Key Concept

This variety is not random — it reflects how organisms have changed over long periods of time to survive in different environments. A cactus in a desert has thick, water-storing stems, while a water lily has broad, flat leaves to float on ponds — both are adaptations shaped by their very different surroundings. Studying this diversity helps scientists understand evolution, ecosystems, and how to conserve species that might be at risk of extinction due to habitat loss.

Quick Revision Notes

- Living organisms range from microscopic bacteria to enormous whales.
- Diversity includes differences in size, shape, structure, and habitat.
- New species are still being discovered in unexplored regions.
- Diversity reflects long-term adaptation to different environments.

Practice Questions

- 1 Name three very different living organisms you have seen and describe one difference between them.
- 2 Why do scientists think new species are still waiting to be discovered?
- 3 Explain how a cactus and a water lily show adaptation to their environments.