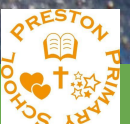


Preston Village Local Nature Guide



Written by Year 3 and 4, Preston Primary School



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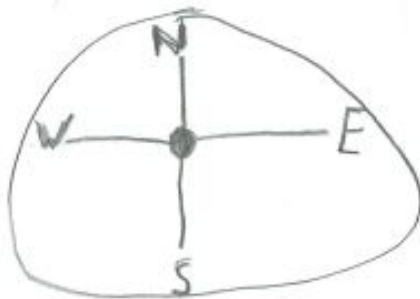
Welcome to Preston!

Preston is a small village in North Hertfordshire. It is south of Hitchin.

This means that not a lot of people live here to ruin the nature around.


This nature guide will tell you everything that Preston's wildlife has to offer.

From wondrous woods to the incredible Indoors,
this guide is guaranteed to expose you to the wonderful
Wildlife of...
PRESTON!

[illegible]

Keys

- ||| = road
 = foot path
 = church
 = play ground
 = post box
 = telephone box
 = bin
Ph = public house
Pg = public garden

-  = carries on ~~st~~ from here
 = pond
 Gh = granny's house
 = school
 Cp = car park
 == way through to
 = green area
 = stone walkway
 = Woods

Woodland

Habitats

Introduction

Ever wanted to have a walk in wonderful Wain Woods or hike in Hitch Wood? Well, this booklet has a lot of information about the woodland habitats in and around Preston Village and the microhabitats that can be found in them. Dive in to know a lot about the woods.



This is a picture of Wain Woods located in Preston Village next to the Cricket field.

Why woods are important

A large variety of invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and plants live in the woods. We don't want to ruin their habitats even if it is a microhabitat to a whole ecosystem.

No bees means no honey!



Dangers!

Don't cut down trees because we need trees to breath. We also need plants.

Deforestation can impact many habitats.



Baffling Birds' Nests

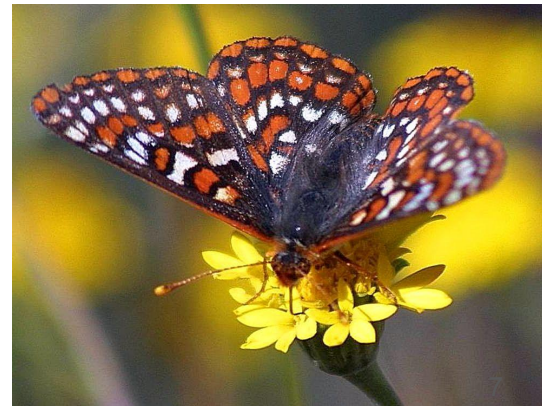
Introduction

Have you ever taken the time to notice the fantastic flying finches? Or seen the **majestic** magical magpies soaring through the air? Or even gazed upon a jet-black jealous jackdaw? Have you wondered where on earth they live? Well we're here to tell you all about birds' nests! And the variety of those who **dwell** there.



Did you know

That not only
birds live in
nests?



Importance

Do you know what animals live above your head when walking through the village? The answer... Birds! Without birds nests, the eggs will be eaten by **predators** who live around the area. This means no birds will hatch and without birds no seeds will get spread and the insects will not get eaten. The **invertebrate** will eat all the remaining seeds and no flowers will grow. No bees can live without flowers so with no bees, no fruit or vegetables can grow. The grass will die so no **herbivores** can live. This will cause the carnivores to starve because the herbivores are dead. Eventually the humans will die and the world will become **barren!**



Changes and dangers

Sometimes jobs like lumberjacks can harm nests because if they chop down a tree with a nest in it, it will end up with the nest breaking. Sometimes people don't harm them, the weather can. For example if it's winter the birds might not survive, so chop down less trees and stick to the path. **Urbanisation** can also harm to nests because you could build a house on a nest. But sometimes people restrict areas for animals.

What we can do to help

1. We can put out bird feeders for when its cold so if the nests get destroyed, the bird has enough energy to rebuild it.
2. We can put out extra short thin sticks for the birds to get.
3. Be careful which trees we cut down.

We hope this helps your understanding for how important bird nests are in Preston and other places too.



Trees

Creep through Wain Wood and creep up to the trees where you might hear thumping of the squirrels, the cheeping of the birds and the rustling of the leaves. But have you ever looked up and wondered what **MAGNIFICENT mammals, birds or invertebrates** are watching down on you? Well if so whip out your magnifying glass and explore the woods.



Picture of the woods.

Organisms that live in trees:

Squirrels

Birds such as Blue Tits

Invertebrates such as beetles



NESTS AND TREES

When you are walking in the woods have you ever stopped and looked up? What are all of those piles of twigs leaning in the tree branches? They're nests! And loads of birds are lurking there!



Here is a bird nest that can be spotted in Wain Woods.

There are different type of birds that can be spotted in Preston: robin, woodpecker, bluetit, duck, blackbird, magpies, pigeons and redkites

Why are trees and nests so important.

They are home to many **organisms** so mainly please walk on a path. A tree produces shelter.

If there is no trees there will be no nests.

It may look like a tree is just a thing that gives air but it is much more. It is a little home for **organisms**. Big homes or little homes. birds, wood lice, and spiders.

Underground habitats

Animals under our feet

Do you ever look down you'll be like "yer it's just earth"? Well No! Look closer, what do you see? You should see habitats that are used by a variety of animals young and old. Read on and learn more about these damp and gloomy habitats

Animals that live in these habitats:

Moles

Badgers

Fox

rabbits

Water voles



A rabbit coming out of its **burrow**



All of these animals could be spotted in Preston.

Why are these habitats important?

It's like why do we have homes? Like us, they store food, water and beds and they have shelter from weather, litter and humans. Most habitats have no light so most are for **nocturnal** animals so it's hard to see.

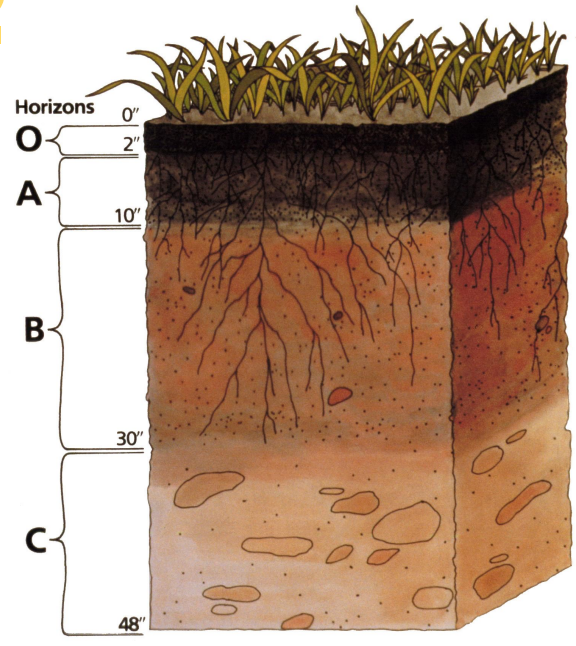


Changes and dangers

If we litter a flood can appear and wash out these animals. Then they will have to move miles if they have to over years they'll properly find a new space to live.



Soil



SPECTACULAR SOIL

When you are passing through Preston and you step on some grass think of what might be under the grass? Of course soil but in that invertebrates live. You could be stepping on their homes!

DID YOU KNOW?

That soil is one of the largest habitats on the planet!

Why is soil important?

Soil is important to many **invertebrates** like: worms, centipedes and beetles. It provides habitats, food and water.

Changes and Dangers

Stepping on grass and plants, killing things and throwing rubbish on the floor can all harm the organisms that rely on soil to live.



UNDER LOGS AND ROCKS

INTRODUCTION

Insects and other invertebrates live in and under logs and rocks.

Knock Knock.

Who's there?

Invertebrates.

Invertebrates who?

Invertebrates in trees and logs!

Under logs is an a perfect habitat for small invertebrates such as woodlouse and spiders. It is perfect for them because of the damp and dark conditions.

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Logs are important because for many years logs have protected animals. This means that other big animals such as mammals can eat the invertebrate living under the logs to survive. They also make great food for birds so that they can survive too!

CHANGES AND DANGERS

There are alot of dangers to logs and one of them is weather such as wind which can blow over logs and change where its placed. Also its children playing and humans too who can harm these habitats and irritate insects.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?



We can help by leaving logs alone and keeping small insects alive.

Don't move them! If you do, put them back where you found them.

We can also help the environment from climate change.

We can also make people aware of logs and rocks and how they are important.

Ponds and Puddles

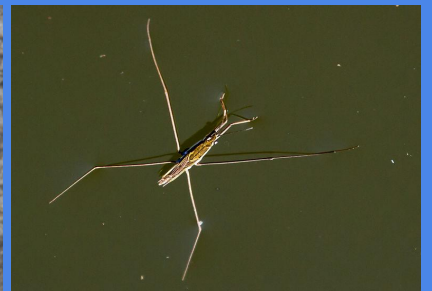
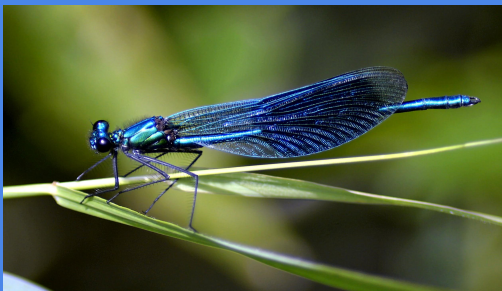
Have you ever thought of Ponds and Puddles in wood habitats? If you have, look at ponds carefully at the plants such as weeds and lily pads. If you are looking at a puddle maybe get a stick and swirl it around. Look carefully just incase you get an **invertebrate** on your stick!



Animals that live in ponds

Ponds have hundreds of organisms living in and around them including water snails, leeches, worms, water beetles, water boatmen, fresh mussels, larvae caddisfly, dragonfly, and damselfly to say the least.

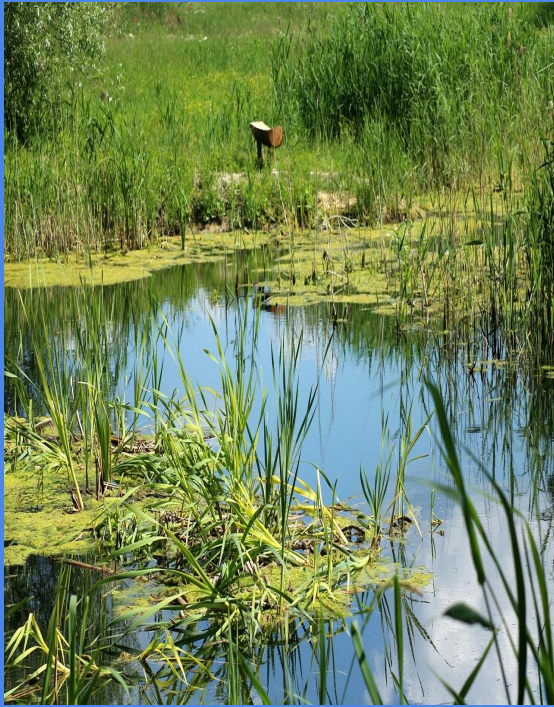
Without Ponds, animals would not be able to drink water and some fish would not be able to swim. It is also good for plants including lily pads and some flowering plants.



These animals all live in ponds

Dangers

If the weather changes into a hot weather. Puddles and ponds might **evaporate**. That would mean no animals can drink water and then **organisms** would go extinct. Litter and plastic pollution could also be a threat because fish could get stuck in it and eat it and die.



Many living things rely on ponds to live.



Did you know?

Did you know?

That 97% of all the water in the world is salty and 3% is frozen

A GUIDE TO LEAF LITTER

in Preston

When you are wondering through Prestons woods lisson very hard and you can hear birds chirping, people walking and bugs squeaking under your feet. But have you ever looked down and seen a load of leafs clumped together? Well that's leaf litter.



Did you know That insects love to live in leaf litter?

WHY IS LEAF LITTER IMPORTANT?

Leaf litter is important because

Insects live there and if insects don't have a home then bigger animals won't have something to eat than even bigger animals don't have something to eat. Then, we won't have anything to eat so it affects us as well and we won't have any animals! With out animals life would be boring too!

CHANGES AND DANGERS

- Weather can change leaf litter habitats because it could blow away the leafs.
- Litter can be a danger because organisms could get trapped under it.
- Deforestation because the tree could fall onto insect living there.
- Humans and large animals because they could tread on small ones.
- Living things in the leafs.
- Litter again because small animals could eat it.



Some insects some time found in leaf litter

HOW CAN WE HELP?

When your out walking you should.....

Not go off the path

Not drop litter

Not cut down trees

DID YOU KNOW?

Lots of insects live in leaf litter.

Leaf litter is often found in woods.



Ants nests

Have you ever looked down as you are wondering along? You could be stepping on organisms and an ant nest. Whip out your magnifying glass and read on to investigate these fascinating **invertebrates**.

If you pick it up, put it down.
Just imagine if you get picked up and not be put back!



Did You Know?

Inside ants nest they can be 26-28 degrees.

Did You Know?

Rocks are rare in ants nest. Also ants nest are called ant hills

Why are they important ?

Ants nest are important to beetles because sometimes they visit. Ant nest can protect tiny invertebrates. They can delve down. Now they can stay safe from their **predators**.



These are the most common rocks in ant nest

What changes and dangers are there?

Ant hills can shrink by wind, rain, thunder and us really. This means that the ant won't have a habitat. The ants can get trapped by litter.



What what can we do to help ?

We can help by putting the nest in a box or a tub if we have to move it, but ants nests should not be moved. Also maybe put a little fence around the nest.

Do not litter.

Plants



When you are wondering through the wood have you ever stopped and thought what is going on underground?



leaf



Blue bells can be found in the woods

Although it looks like a ordinary pretty plant, many **microorganisms** live there! Bees and butterflies also like to pollinate. Also worms and caterpillars like to eat plants.



Dangers

If we don't take care of the plants then they will die which causes bees and bugs to die. This causes no plants which can cause us to have no food! This could cause us to die!

[illegible]

Stop walking on plants when walking through the woods and gardens in Preston.
Only walk on the paths!
Water the plants.
Stop jumping on the plants!

INDOOR HABITATS

Some animals make their homes in buildings. Some of the buildings in Preston Village will be home to some animals including bats!



Bats are great animals but some people disagree. If you ever start walking in preston, Stop and think about the bats and other animals that could be sleeping under your roof or in the walls!

Bat Facts

Lots of bats live indoors but have you ever thought about how they eat?

They normally eat tiny insects that crawl in the walls and in the attic but sometimes they like taking fresh food rather than old food from the fridge and sometimes they don't eat for weeks.

DID YOU KNOW

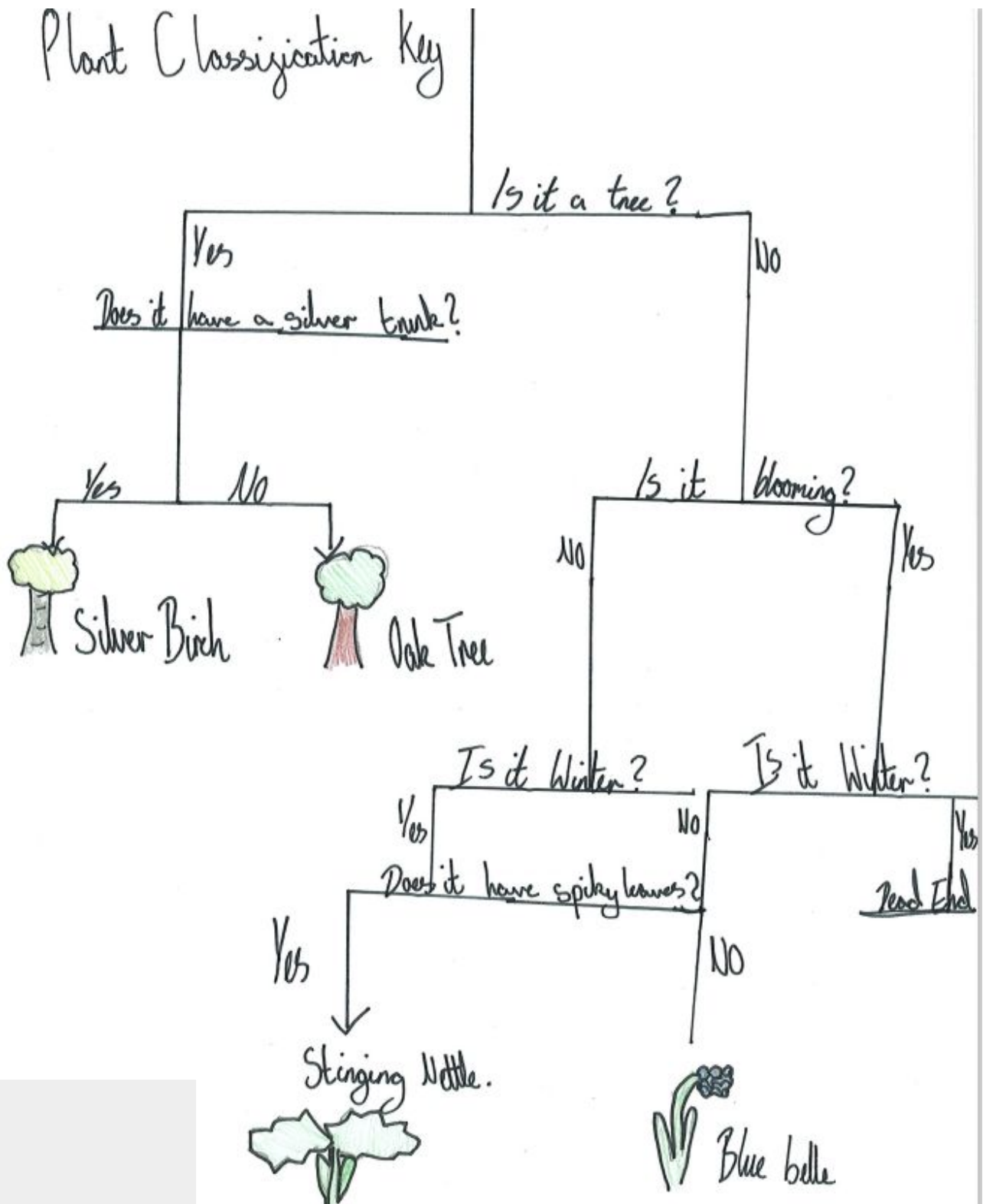
Sometimes bats can live for at least 10 days without eating anything.



Bats are also in danger sometimes because sometimes the roof tiles fall of which will destroy their homes or even worse kill them.

Classification Keys

Use these classification keys to identify organisms found in and around Preston.



Insect classification key

Ant	Beetle
Ladybird	Woodhouse

Is it black?

yes

no

Ant, beetle

Ladybird, ~~beetle~~ Woodhouse

Does it have wings?

Has it got spots?

yes

no

yes

no

beetle

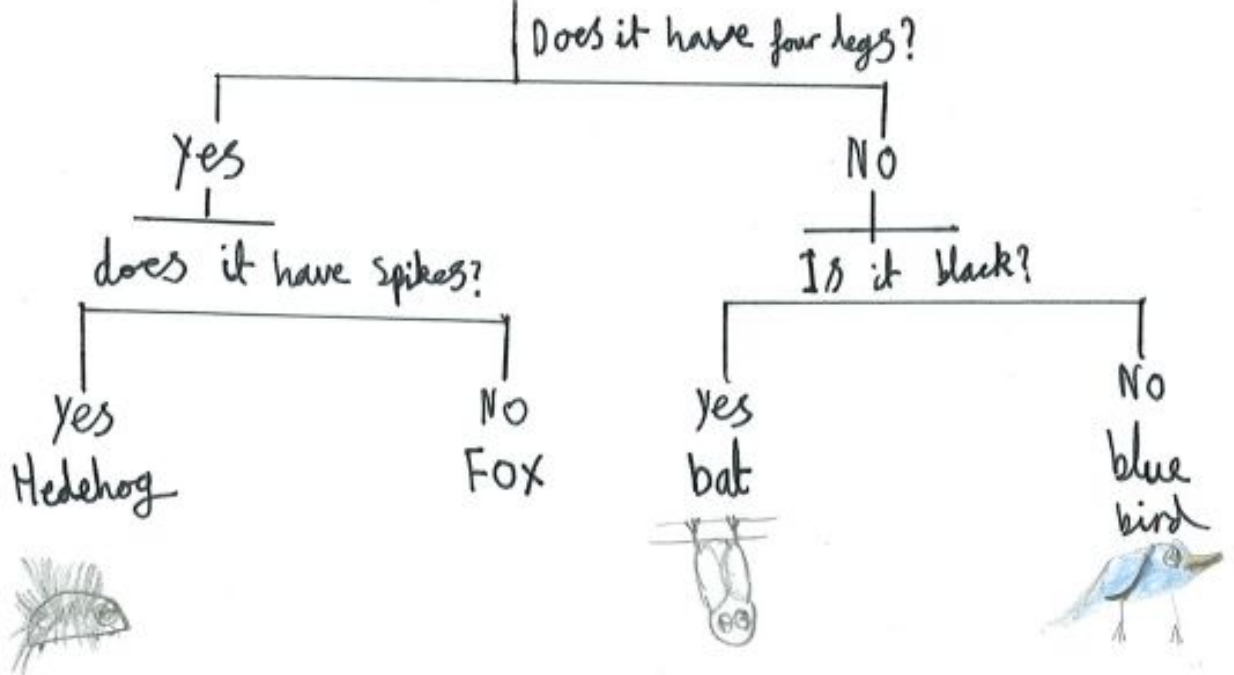
ant

ladybird

Woodhouse



animal Classification Key



Glossary

Woods - a place where there is a lot of trees

Habitat - a place where animals live

Microhabitat - a smaller place where animals live

Ecosystem - a place where a lot of habitats are

Organism - a living creature

Microorganism- a smaller living creature

Majestic- a very smooth and delicate way of moving

Dwell - is to live in a place permanently

Invertebrate - an animal that has no backbone

Herbivore - an animal which only eats leaves

Predator - an animal that preys on other animals

Mammal - an organism that is warm blooded and gives birth to live young.

Burrow - a hole or tunnel which is a home for some animals

Nocturnal - animals that sleep during the day and are awake at night time

Evaporate - when liquid turns into vapour

Urbanisation - Building houses and other buildings