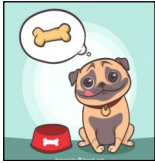


Knowledge Organiser - Year 2 - Science: The basic needs of animals

Key Question: What do we need to survive?



Animals need water, food and air to survive, but they also need to have a way to control their body temperature in whatever habitat they live in.

Key Vocabulary

Adults	Animals that are fully grown and have reached maturity.
Air	A mixture of gas surrounding the Earth to allow animals to breathe.
Diet	The food that each animal needs and eats regularly to give them their nutrients.
Exercise	Physical activities that require effort designed to keep an animal fit and healthy.
Food	Something that animals eat or drink to allow it to live and grow.
Growth	The process of developing physically by becoming full sized and by maturing to an adult animal.
Hygiene	To keep things clean and healthy by washing.
Offspring	A baby animal or person.
Nutrition	The process of getting the food necessary for health and growth.
Reproduction	The process by which a new baby is produced by parent animals.
Shelter	A place that gives protection from bad weather or danger.
Survival	Being able to live in the environment that you are in.
Temperature	How hot the surroundings are in the habitat (usually measured in degrees Celsius). It can also be the measurement of how hot an animal is.
Unhygienic	Not clean, in a way that may cause disease.
Warmth	A gentle temperature that should allow for survival of an animal. Too hot or too cold an environment can make survival impossible.
Water	A colourless, transparent liquid essential for all animals to survive on Earth. Humans would not survive more than 3 or 4 days without water. Other animals can survive longer or even less time than this depending on the way their bodies work.

When animals have a suitable habitat with enough food and water, they are able to reproduce. The adults will have offspring, which then grow into adults themselves. This is called the lifecycle of the animal. In rabbits, this lifecycle is quite quick. A baby rabbit (otherwise known as a kitten or kit) is born without fur and with its eyes shut. Within four weeks its eyes and ears are working, it's furry and it is able to survive without its mother. After a year it is considered an adult. Rabbits live for about 8 years.



The basic needs of animals for survival varies depending on the habitat and the animal. Although all animals need air, water and food, some animals are highly adapted to live in very dry, hot conditions where humans could not survive. These animals have changed the way they live to cope with very little water. This kangaroo rat gets all its water from its food and doesn't need to drink at all!



The right diet and exercise are vitally important for us to be healthy. Eating the right amounts of different types of food helps us to have strong nails, teeth and bones, shiny hair and be able to grow to our full height. It's important to eat some of each of the food groups—protein, carbohydrates, fats and vitamins, but too much fat is stored by your body and exercise helps to deal with this and also to tone your muscles to support your skeleton. We might not end up looking like an athlete, but we will be fit and able to fight off disease!



Getting muddy is fun, but then it's important to wash and have healthy fresh water to drink. If you don't think about your hygiene, it can lead to health problems, such as upset stomachs, rotten teeth, not smelling very nice and having illnesses that you can then give to others. In countries without access to clean water children can become very ill and even die.

Working Scientifically

Pupils should work scientifically by observing how different animals, including humans, grow. They can do this through watching video footage or first-hand observation and measurement. They should ask questions about what things animals need for survival and what humans need to stay healthy and suggest ways to find answers to their questions. Where possible, they can gather data, carry out simple tests, record simple data, and talk about what they have found out and how they found it out.