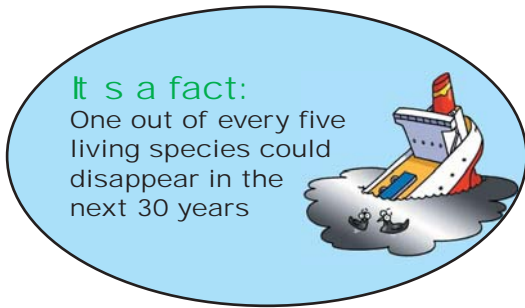


Habitat solutions

We all need to use less water, electricity, paper, plastic - in fact, less everything! If we all did this, there would be less pollution and fewer raw materials like coal, would be mined from the land and seabed. The less we throw away the less rubbish needs to be buried in the ground or dumped at sea. Instead of throwing things away they can be recycled so they are used again and again. You can buy recycled things too. The less we use, the less damage we cause to wildlife and habitats.



Supermarkets should sell organic food grown by local farmers. Organic food is food that is grown without using artificial chemicals. Companies could build machines like fridges, washing machines and cars which last longer and use less energy and water. The Government can also make laws to protect precious habitats and wildlife from being damaged, and stop companies from destroying habitats.



biteback...
Youth and Education Programme

Friends of the Earth's Youth and Education Programme provides a range of publications exploring sustainable development, citizenship and environmental issues, designed to be used within a class, youth groups or by individual young people.

Why not read other leaflets in the Mad about... series?
For details telephone 020 7490 1555 or write to:
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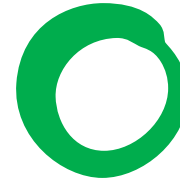


Friends of the Earth inspires solutions to environmental problems, which make life better for people

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Mad about... natural habitats



**Friends of
the Earth**



Are you naturally mad about habitats?

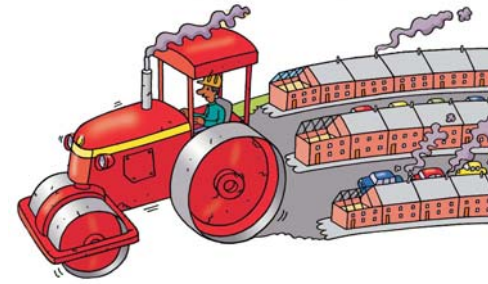
There are many different types of natural habitat. These beautiful places provide homes and food for wildlife, clean air, food and medicine for people. We need to stop habitats being destroyed

Big appetites

Farmers in Britain are encouraged to plough up colourful flower-filled grasslands, meadows and hedgerows and turn them into fields for crops. Chemicals sprayed on crops to kill pests and weeds can poison other animals and plants and fish living in nearby rivers. New kinds of crops called GM also use chemicals and are bad for habitats.

Bad business

Some companies don't think about wildlife and habitats when they make money. They chop down forests to make paper and wood. They catch too many fish using huge trawler nets. Peat bogs that are 10,000 years old, and are home to many rare plants and animals, are dug up to get peat for garden compost. Companies pollute the air, land and sea with dirty smoke and chemicals.



Growing needs

As there are more and more people living in the world, more houses, offices, roads and shops are built for them. Each new town needs fresh water and a supply of energy. Dams are built to provide the water but these destroy streams and rivers. Power stations are built to supply electricity but they pollute the air and poison lakes. When fuel is burnt to provide energy it releases a gas into the air. This gas is causing the climate to change, and the change in temperature is making habitats disappear.

Help stop damage to habitats

Enjoy the planet

- Get to know your local wildlife areas, and ask your school to organise a trip.
- If you have a garden at school or home, grow plants that attract wildlife.
- Buy peat-free compost for your garden, or make your own from leftover food.

Shop wisely

- Ask your parents to buy food that's free from chemicals, such as organic fruit and vegetables, whenever they can.
- Tell everyone you know to buy wooden goods only if they have the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo - this protects forests around the world.



- Buy recycled and second-hand products whenever you can. This stops waste and can save you money.

Glossary

Climate: the pattern of weather for a place

GM: (genetically modified) plants that scientists have made

Habitat: natural home of a plant or animal

Mining: digging up raw materials like coal and iron

Organic: food grown without using chemicals

Species: different species are the different kinds of plants and animals

It's a fact:

The planet has nearly 10,000,000 (ten million) different species of plants and animals living in its beautiful and unique wild places

Mad about... natural habitats



Friends of the Earth

How many different types of habitat can you spot?

How many different types of habitat have you visited?

Habitats are where animals and plants live, but many of our homes are being destroyed.

Some big companies make lots of money by cutting down forests for paper and wood.

Some habitats are mined for the rocks and metal found underneath them.

Oceans, seas, rivers and lakes are over-fished and polluted by rubbish, chemicals and sewage.

Towns, cities and roads are built over natural habitats. This destroys them forever.

Peat bogs are dug up and the peat used in gardens.

Meadows and grasslands are ploughed up for crops and polluted with chemicals.

