

CLIL Science: living things and their habitats

A habitat is the place where a living thing lives. This original beginner science activity connects English description words with observations of plants and animals. It is a supplementary CLIL exercise, not a reproduction of a textbook science lesson.

Anglais 1AC - Supplementary practice - Updated 27/10/2026

Learning goals

- Use English to describe a school garden
- Useful words for living things and observation
- Tell an observation from a conclusion

1. How do I describe living things and habitats in simple English?

A habitat is a place where a living thing lives. Use simple verbs to describe what you observe: Ants live in the soil; A tree needs water and light. Keep an observation separate from a conclusion that would require more evidence.



A habitat is a place where a living thing lives.

2. Use English to describe a school garden

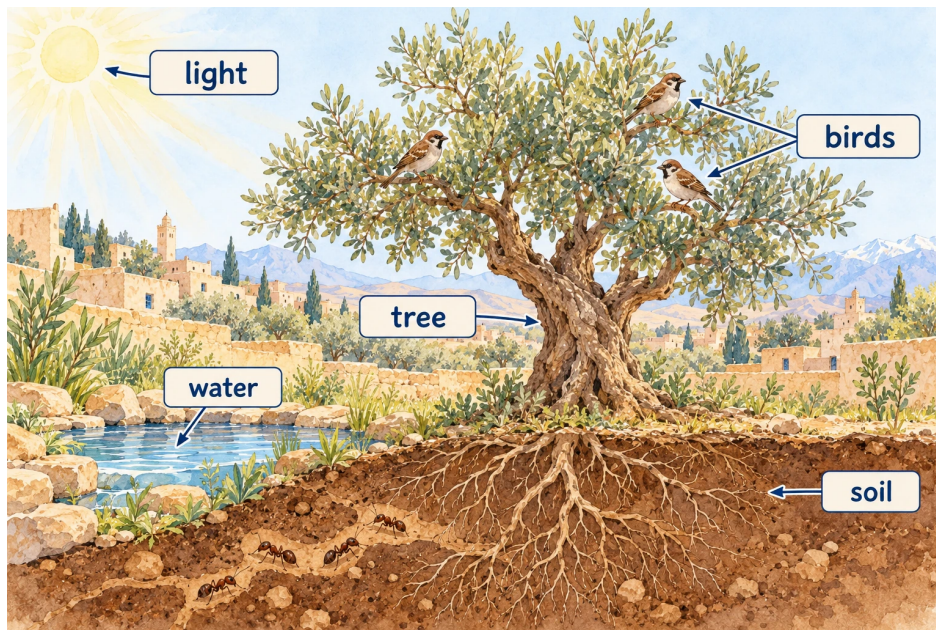
Living things need suitable conditions. Plants need light and water to grow; animals need food and water. A description can use lives, grows, has and needs. With a singular subject, write A plant needs water; with a plural subject, write Plants need water.

Separate what you observe from what you infer. The sentence There are leaves on the plant reports a visible feature. The sentence The plant is healthy is a conclusion that needs more evidence. Use can when describing an ability, as in A bird can fly, while remembering that not every bird flies.

3. Useful words for living things and observation

Word	Simple meaning	Example
habitat	a place to live	A pond is a habitat.
need	something necessary	Plants need water.
observe	notice and record	There are three leaves.
compare	find similarities and differences	Both plants have green leaves.

4. Read the garden description



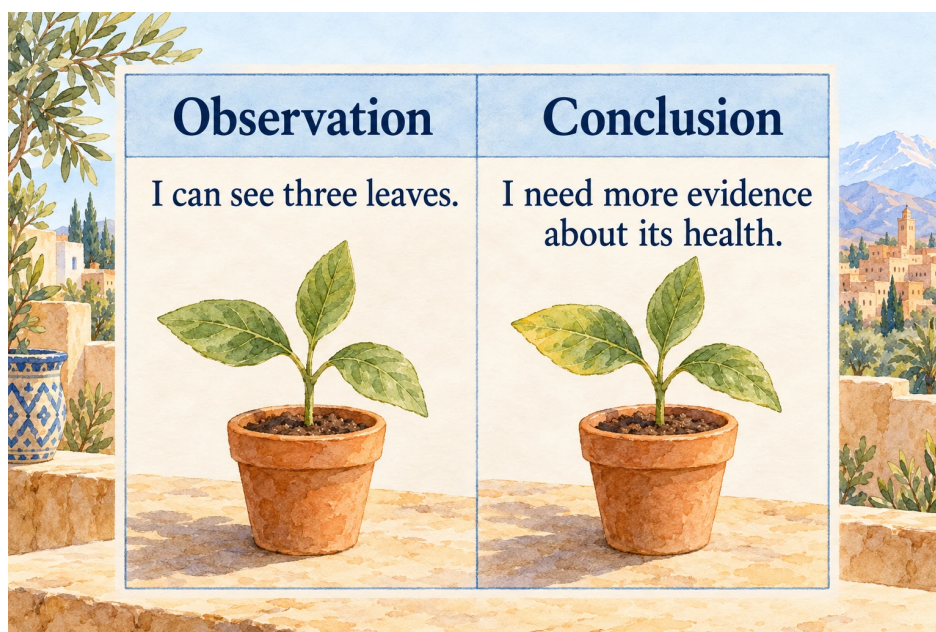
Use needs with a singular subject and need with a plural.

Read and explain this example

Near the school, there is a small garden. A tree grows beside a wall. Ants live in the soil. Birds visit the branches. The tree needs water and light. We can count its leaves, but we cannot tell its age from the number of leaves alone.

5. Tell an observation from a conclusion

There are three leaves is a detail that you can check by looking and counting. The plant is healthy is a broader conclusion. Leaves might supply some evidence, but their number alone is not enough to establish the plant's overall condition or age. Scientific language becomes clearer when you say exactly what you observed. A short English sentence can be precise without using difficult vocabulary: The leaves are green; The soil looks dry.



Keep observations distinct from unsupported conclusions.

Check this

This page supplies its own science topic because the reference index labels the component only CLIL Science. It does not identify the exact hidden topic in that course.

Put the idea into practice

1. Choose one plant, animal or habitat from the scene.
2. Write a detail that you can observe, using a simple subject and verb.
3. Check whether a conclusion goes beyond the evidence available.

Remember

- A habitat is a place where a living thing lives.
- Use needs with a singular subject and need with a plural.
- Keep observations distinct from unsupported conclusions.

Practice - Try before checking

Answer in your notebook. Use evidence from the examples and check your sentences.

Exercise 1. Choose agreement

Complete: A tree (need / needs) light. Ants (live / lives) in soil.

Exercise 2. Find evidence

Where do the ants live in the text? Can we tell the tree's age by counting leaves?

Exercise 3. Write an observation

Write two observable details about a real or imagined school garden.

Exercise 4. Improve a science note

A pupil writes This tree is ten years old because it has many leaves. What can be reported more carefully?

Explained answers

Exercise 1. Choose agreement

Needs; live. A tree is singular and ants is plural.

Exercise 2. Find evidence

They live in the soil. No, the text says leaf count alone does not tell its age.

Exercise 3. Write an observation

Example: There are two trees. A bird is on a branch. Report details that could be checked; do not add an unsupported age or health claim.

Exercise 4. Improve a science note

Example: The tree has many leaves. We need more evidence to know its age. Leaf count alone does not establish the stated age.

Frequently asked questions

How do I describe living things and habitats in simple English?

A habitat is a place where a living thing lives. Use simple verbs to describe what you observe: Ants live in the soil; A tree needs water and light. Keep an observation separate from a conclusion that would require more evidence.

Why is it A plant needs but Plants need?

A plant is a singular third-person subject, so the positive present simple takes needs. Plants is plural, so use need.

Can one observation prove that a plant is healthy?

No. Three leaves are an observation. To judge health, collect other evidence such as leaf colour, growth over time and whether the plant has enough water and light.



MATHFJIB - Anglais 1AC

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