

The right place to live



Background knowledge

Just as animals adapt to the places they live, so do plants. Plants are adapted to a wide variety of habitats. As a result, each plant has certain characteristics. Some are adapted to living on land while others live in water. Plants that grow on land usually have stiff stems to hold them upright, while water plants tend to have less rigid stems because the water supports them. Plants that live in dry climates like the desert have small or very few leaves. This cuts down on water loss through the leaves. Their stems may also be thick to store water. Plants that grow in shaded areas have large leaves to capture as much sunlight as possible.

Science activity

Look at the drawings below. Explain how each plant is suited to its habitat.



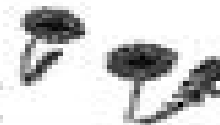
A cactus growing in a hot, dry area

Pond weed growing just under the surface of water.



A daisy growing in meadow or grassland area.

Look at these two sundew plants. Which one do you think grows under a tree? Explain.



Science investigation

1 Take extra care - ask an adult to supervise you.

The pitcher plant and the Venus flytrap are examples of plants that eat insects. Use reference books and the Internet to do a report. Make sure to explain why the plant eats insects. Design and conduct an experiment to learn how a Venus flytrap captures insects.