

Living organisms and their surroundings

Synopsis

- The surroundings or place where organisms live is called habitat. Living organisms depend on habitat for their food, water, air, shelter and other needs.
- The habitats of the plants and animals that live on land are called terrestrial habitat.
- The habitats of plant and animals that live in water are called aquatic habitat.
- The plants which grow in deserts or in very dry places where there is scarcity of water are cactus, agave, asparagus.
- The habitat of animals that live in air for most of the time are called aerial animals e.g., birds.
- The presence of specific features in the body which enable a plant or animal to live or survive is called adaptation, e.g., camel's hump
- Change in the position from one place to another is called movement or locomotion.
- The process in which digested food combines with oxygen to release energy is called respiration.
- The process of removal of waste substances from the body of living beings is called excretion.
- Things which exhibit some characteristics such as need for food, respiration, response to stimuli, movement, growth, and reproduction are called living things.
- An increase in size, height and width is referred to as growth. Growth seems to be common to all living things. For example, a chicken hatched from an egg grows into a hen or cock.

- Changes in body or other organisms caused due to surroundings that makes us or other organisms respond to them, are called stimuli.
- Reproduction is the process by which living things produce more of their own kind.
- Plants, animals and microorganisms together constitute biotic components. Soil, rock, water, light and temperature are some of the abiotic components of our surroundings.
- The plants which grow in water are called hydrophytes, e.g., hydrilla, vallisneria, pistia, otus.
- The plants that grow in moderate conditions of temperature, are called mesophytes.