# Science – Super Species

## Key Vocabulary

| | |
|---|---|
| Life processes | The specific functions that all organisms must do to stay alive |
| MRS GREN | The way to remember the seven life processes |
| Habitat | The natural environment in which an animal or plant lives and grows |
| Organism | A living thing |
| Vertebrate | An animal with a spine (backbone) |
| Invertebrate | An animal without a backbone |
| Food Chain | The order in which living things depend on each other for food |
| Photosynthesis | The process where plants use sunlight, to make their own food |
| Ecosystem | All of the organisms (plants and animals) that live and interact with each other in a habitat |

Habitats come in all shapes and sizes. They can be oceans, deserts, forests… almost any environment you can think of! Have a look at the pictures on this page, can you name any plants or animals that might be a part of these ecosystems?

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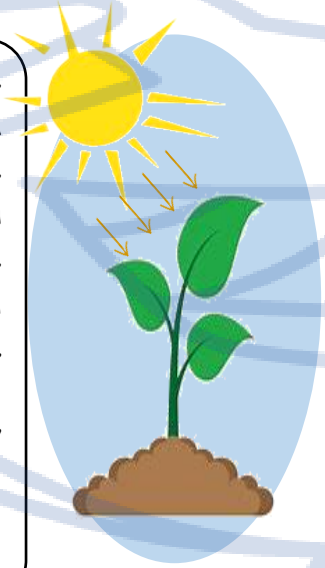
Can you find out what the special chemical is called that plants have that let them absorb sunlight?

Photosynthesis is the process where plants make their own food. It is a vitally important process because without it, there would be no energy in any food that we eat. Plants use nothing but sunlight, water and carbon dioxide (a gas in the air) to make oxygen (that we need to breathe to live) and glucose (a type of sugary syrup).

What plants do you like to eat?



## MRS GREN

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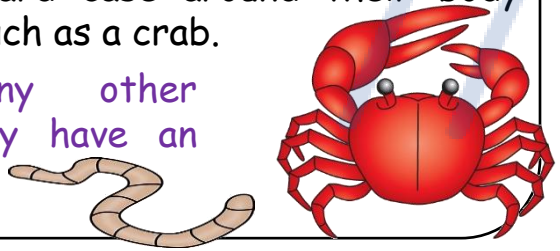
|---|---|---|
| **M** | ***Movement*** | The moving parts of an organism |
| **R** | ***Reproduction*** | Producing offspring (having babies) |
| **S** | ***Sensitivity*** | Reacting and responding to the environment |
| **G** | ***Growth*** | Increasing in size through to adulthood |
| **R** | ***Respiration*** | Using food and air to create energy |
| **E** | ***Excretion*** | Getting rid of waste products |
| **N** | ***Nutrition*** | Making or taking in food needed for respiration |

Animals, like humans, that have a spine are called vertebrates. Animals without a spine are called invertebrates. You might think that all animals without a spine would be squishy like a worm but they aren't. Some have a hard case around their body called an exoskeleton, such as a crab.

Can you name any other invertebrates? Do they have an exoskeleton?



All organisms must go through all of these seven life processes to stay alive.

This means that even plants must move too. Have you ever seen a sunflower turn through the day to follow the sun? That means that in the morning it will be facing east, but by the evening it will be facing west.

Can you work out what actions your body takes every day for each life process?