The natural world

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each ecological word with its meaning.

1 habitat	____	a animal hunted and eaten by another
2 species	____	b seasonal movement from one region to another
3 predator	____	c animal that hunts another animal
4 prey	____	d natural home of a plant or animal
5 pollinator	____	e stages through which a living thing develops
6 migration	____	f animal that transfers pollen between flowers
7 hibernation	____	g group of organisms able to reproduce with one another
8 life cycle	____	h inactive winter state used to save energy

2 Complete the collocations.

adapt | **food** | **habitat** | **hibernate** | **lay** | **migrate** | **native** | **wild**

1 a _____ chain

2 a _____ species

3 _____ loss

4 _____ to a dry climate

5 _____ eggs

6 birds _____ south

7 bats _____ in winter

8 animals in the _____

3 Correct one mistake in each sentence.

1 Owls hunt at night and their **prays** include mice. _____

2 This wetland is an important **habit** for frogs. _____

3 Bees **pollution** many fruit trees. _____

4 Some birds make a long seasonal **migrate**. _____

5 The reserve protects several **specie** of orchid. _____

6 A fox is a **prediction** that hunts small mammals. _____

7 The butterfly has a complex life **circle**. _____

8 Native plants are well **adapt** to local conditions. _____

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4 Complete the field notes with words from the box.

adapted | food chain | habitat | hibernate | life cycle | migrate | pollinators | predators | prey | species

The marsh provides **1** _____ for more than sixty bird **2** _____. Some **3** _____ here in autumn, while others remain all year. Frogs are **4** _____ for herons and other **5** _____, so both groups form part of the same **6** _____. Several insects act as **7** _____. The insects' **8** _____ depends on shallow pools, and they are well **9** _____ to seasonal flooding. Small mammals **10** _____ nearby during the coldest months.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Why an old tree matters

A mature oak is more than one plant. Its flowers feed insects, its leaves support caterpillars, and its branches offer nesting places. Cavities in the trunk shelter bats and owls, while fungi break down dead wood and return nutrients to the soil. Young trees are valuable too, but they cannot immediately replace all these features. For this reason, woodland managers protect old trees while planting the next generation. They also leave some fallen branches in safe areas instead of removing every piece of dead wood.

1 What feeds insects? _____

2 What do trunk cavities provide? _____

3 What do fungi return to the soil? _____

4 Why can young trees not replace old ones immediately? _____

5 What two actions do managers take? _____

6 Why is some dead wood retained? _____

6 Rewrite using the word in capitals.

1 This marsh is where the birds naturally live. **HABITAT** _____

2 The geese travel south each autumn. **MIGRATE** _____

3 The owl hunts the mouse. **PREDATOR** _____

4 These insects move pollen between flowers. **POLLINATORS** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** profile of one wild species. Describe its habitat, diet, life cycle, seasonal behaviour and one relationship with another species.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Distinguish predator from prey. [ ] Use species correctly in singular and plural.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Ecological words

1 **d** 2 **g** 3 **c** 4 **a** 5 **f** 6 **b** 7 **h** 8 **e**

2 Collocations

1 **food** 2 **native** 3 **habitat** 4 **adapt** 5 **lay** 6 **migrate** 7 **hibernate** 8 **wild**

3 Corrections

1 **prey** 2 **habitat** 3 **pollinate** 4 **migration**
5 **species** 6 **predator** 7 life **cycle** 8 **adapted**

4 Field notes

1 **habitat** 2 **species** 3 **migrate** 4 **prey** 5 **predators** 6 **food chain** 7 **pollinators** 8 **life cycle** 9 **adapted** 10 **hibernate**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Its flowers. 2 Shelter for bats and owls. 3 Nutrients.
4 They do not yet have all the old trees' features. 5 Protect old trees and plant young ones. 6 It supports fungi and nutrient cycling.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The marsh is the birds' natural **habitat**. 2 The geese **migrate** south each autumn. 3 The owl is the mouse's **predator**. 4 These insects are **pollinators**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check ecological relationships, word forms and factual coherence.