



Animals and Plants that live in the Bedford River Valley Park

The BRVP is home to lots of different types of plants and animals that are all known as **organisms**.

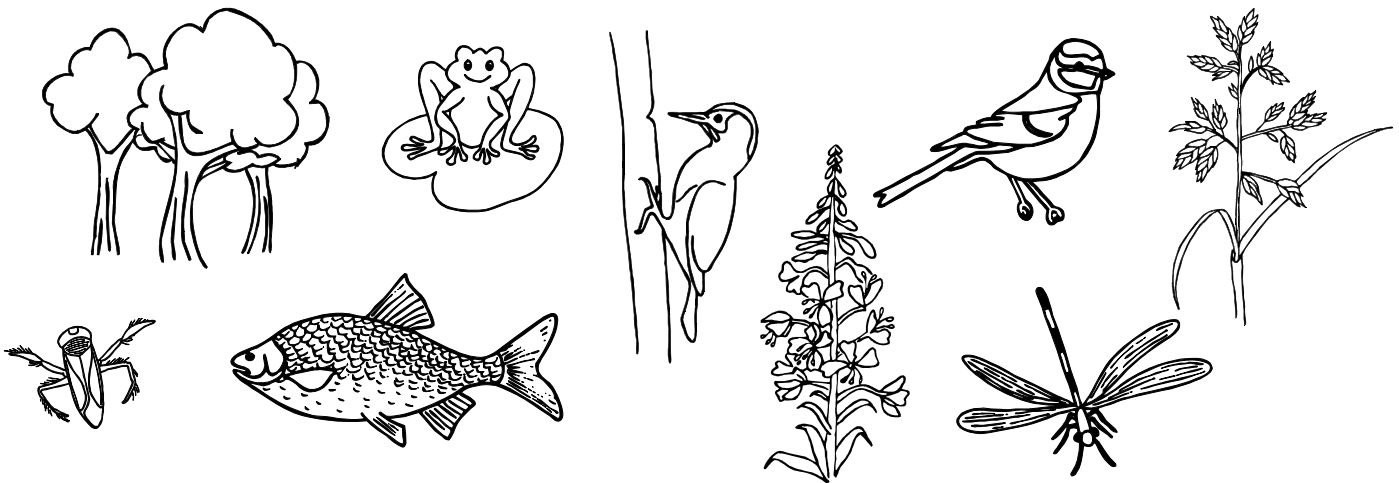
Organism is the word used for anything that is living.

The pictures here show organisms all found in the Grange Estate, part of the River Valley Park near Willington. Some are plants and some are animals

Can you match the description of each animal or plant to the picture and label each one?

Look carefully and then see if you can place them into groups with similar features, for example, put everything that has leaves together in one group. Does this group have a name?

Can you explain why have you separated the organisms in the way that you have?



<p>Oak tree <i>Quercus robur</i> This tree can grow very large and can live to a great age, sometimes hundreds of years. It is sometimes known as the 'English Oak'. It has lobed leaves, acorn fruits and loses its leaves in winter (a deciduous tree).</p>	<p>Common Frog <i>Rana Temporaria</i> Frogs are amphibians (they live on land and in water) and are cold blooded animals. They can be lots of different colours including grey brown, olive green and yellowish. They can be up to 9cm long.</p>	<p>Annual Meadow Grass <i>Poa annua</i> A common species found in almost every patch of grassland. It's usually quite small, (15 - 25 cm), with a flower head containing seeds that can be produced all year.</p>
<p>Blue Tit <i>Parus caeruleus</i> A small common bird which likes woodlands but is often seen in gardens. It has a blue and green back, yellow under parts and a blue head. It feeds on insects, fruit and seeds.</p>	<p>Water Boatman <i>Notonecta glauca</i> A small water insect that gets it's name from the way it swims upside down using long legs like paddles. It can grow to be up to 20mm long and feeds on plant debris, insects and algae.</p>	<p>Common blue damselfly <i>Engallagma cyathigerum</i> Found near water and has a blue and black striped body. Damselflies hold their wings parallel to their body whilst dragonflies hold theirs out.</p>
<p>Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i> A colourful bird (dark green back, pale underneath with a red head) that lives in woodland, farmland and parks. It makes its nest in holes in trees. On the ground it hops awkwardly feeding on ants and other insects.</p>	<p>Rosebay Willowherb <i>Chamerion anguutifolia</i> A tall plant that can grow to over 1 metre tall with pink flower heads between June and September. It grows in hedgerows, fields and on waste grounds and has long thin leaves like a willow tree.</p>	<p>Roach <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> A fish found in British lakes and slow moving parts of rivers. It feeds at the bottom eating invertebrates and plants and is a bluish green colour with orange or red fins.</p>



These different plants and animals live in different **habitats**.

(A habitat is the environment in which any living organism is found and where it finds all it needs to survive).

The map of the Grange Estate shows the different habitats that can be found in this particular part of the BRVP. There are wetland areas (rivers, lakes and ponds), woodland areas (new planting, trees and scrubby woodland) and areas of grassland (some short and grazed by animals other longer grass areas with flowers). Plants and animals will often be found in one of these habitats because they are best suited to life there.

Can you put the organisms from your list into the habitat you think it is most likely to be found in?

Woodland habitat

Grassland habitat

Water

- Water Boatman
- Frog
- Oak tree
- Green Woodpecker
- Fish
- Damselfly
- Willow herb plant
- Blue tit
- Meadow Grass

Can you think of anything that makes one of these organisms well suited to it's habitat?

Can you think of any other animals or plants you might find in the same habitat?

Are some organisms found in more than one habitat?



Suggestions for work:

- Discuss what it is that **plants and animals need to grow and live** using terms such as water warmth, sunlight and food.
- Choose one of the organisms described and investigate its **lifecycle**.
- Encourage discussion in groups relating to the **best and worst habitats** in the river valley park for wildlife. Encourage reasoning.
- Consider representing the different organisms in each habitat in other ways e.g. Using **graphs, tables or bar charts**.
- Create an **imaginary creature and design its habitat**. Would it be from the BRVP or from a completely different habitat e.g. Desert or seaside? Hold a competition for the most creative design and let the group members vote on their favourite.