

DEBATE: WHAT ARE MEADOWS?

Defining the meadow habitat

A meadow is a type of habitat. A **habitat** is an area of **natural environment with distinct features**. Some of these are **physical** (non-living features) and some of these are **biotic** (living features).

In this activity pupils will gain an understanding of meadow habitat features and the conditions wildlife that lives in meadows has to cope with.



How would you describe a meadow?

ACTIVITY 1

Sort the following habitat features into two categories: **living and non-living** by ticking the correct column.

Habitat Feature	Living	Non-living
soil		
temperature		
presence of predators		
moisture		
food sources		
availability of light		

ACTIVITY 2

Sort the images in **card set 1** into their correct habitat type (woodland, coastal, hills, meadow).

Discuss

- * Using the cards as a guide, which of the habitats do you think plants need to adapt to cope with *less* available light? In which of the habitats do you think plants need to adapt to cope with *cooler* temperatures?
- * Do you think birds live in meadows? Why? What challenges may birds that live in meadows face?
- * Many insects that live in meadows are pollinators – relying on flowers for their food source. What time of year do you think is really good for these insects and why? What time of year do you think is hard for these insects?