

Habitat Encyclopedia Article

Habitat by Judith Thompson

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Habitat

Refers to the type of **environment** in which an organism or **species** occurs, as defined by its physical properties (e.g., rainfall, temperature, topographic position, **soil texture**, **soil** moisture) and its chemical properties (e.g., soil acidity, concentrations of nutrients and **toxins**, oxidation reduction status). Some authors include broad biological characteristics in their definitions, for instance forest versus **prairie** habitats, referring to the different types of environments occupied by trees and grasses. Within a given habitat there may be different micro-habitats, for example the hummocks and hollows on bogs or the different soil horizons in forests.