

Get Started With  
**STEM**



Let's Investigate



# Habitats and Food Chains



by Ruth Owen







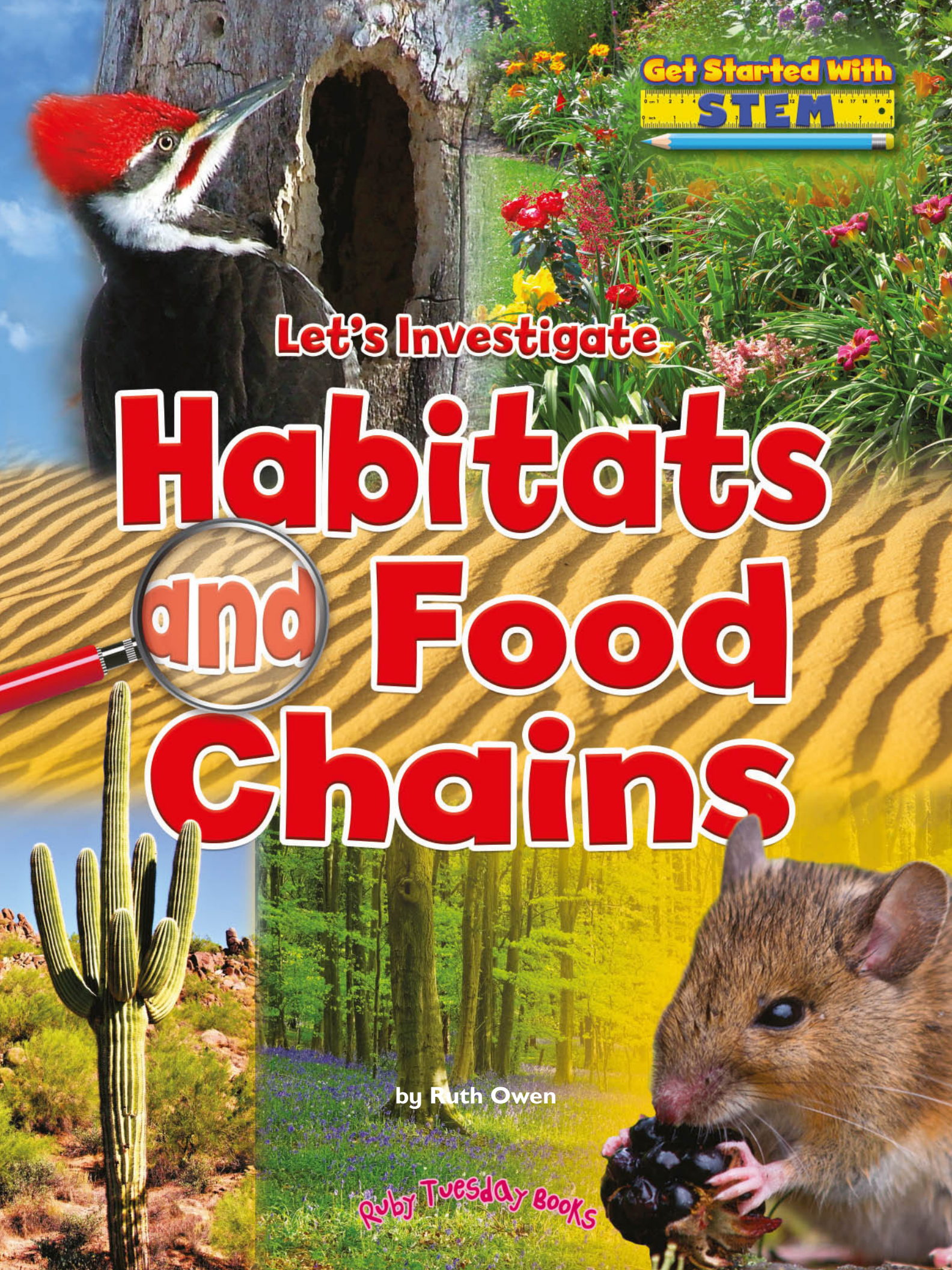
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Ruby Tuesday Books





Published in 2017 by Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd.

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Editor: Mark J. Sachner

Designer: Emma Randall

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Production: John Lingham

Photo credits:

Alamy: 5 (top), 10 (bottom), 21 (bottom left), 26; FLPA: 5 (bottom), 9 (top), 14 (top), 15 (left), 16, 17 (bottom), 23, 31 (top); Istock Photo: 17 (top), 27 (top); Nature Picture Library: 8 (top), 25 (center); Photoshot: 20 (top); Science Photo Library: 19; Shutterstock: Cover, 1, 2–3, 4, 6–7, 8 (bottom), 9 (bottom), 10 (top), 11, 12–13, 14 (bottom), 15 (right), 18, 20 (bottom), 22, 24, 25 (top), 25 (bottom), 27 (bottom), 28–29, 30, 31 (bottom).

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016918443

ISBN 978-1-911341-38-3

Printed and published in the United States of America

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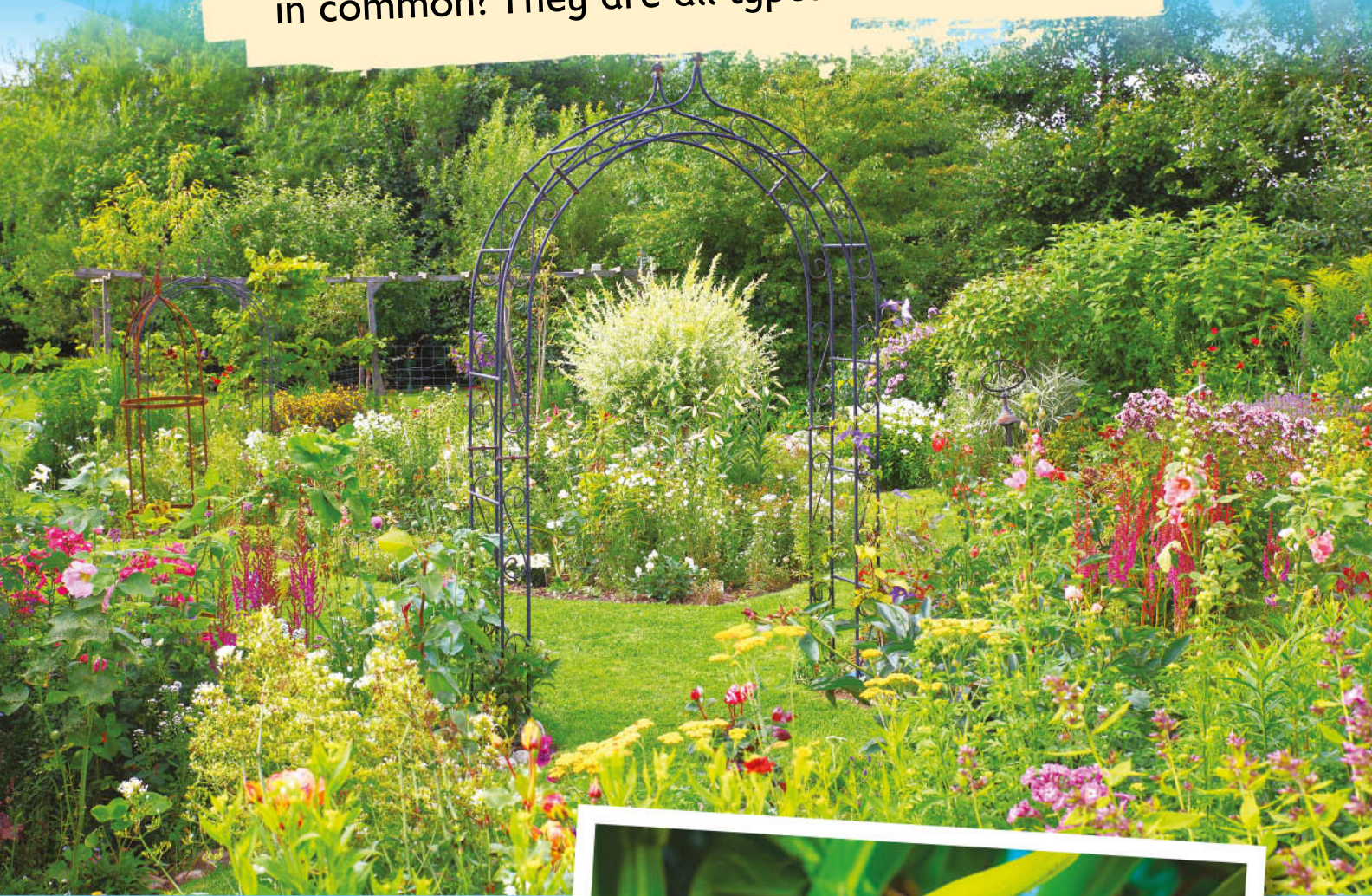
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# What Is a Habitat?

What do a garden, a forest, and a desert have in common? They are all types of habitats.



A habitat is a natural **environment** that is home to plants, animals, and other living things.





The living things in a garden get what they need to live from their habitat.



Robin

This robin is eating a worm that it's pulled from a lawn in a garden.



Squirrel

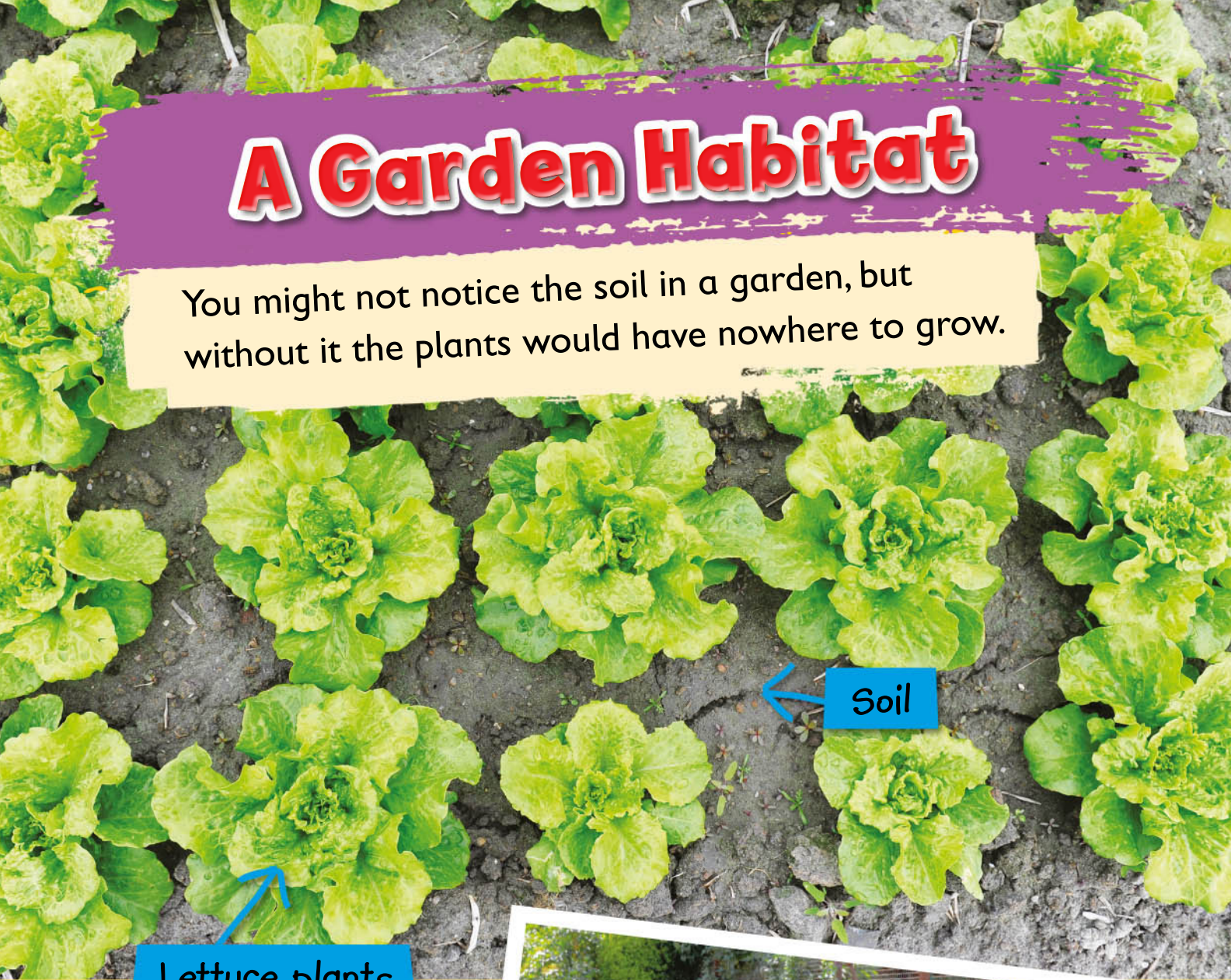


What do you think plants and animals need from their habitat?



# A Garden Habitat

You might not notice the soil in a garden, but without it the plants would have nowhere to grow.



Soil

Lettuce plants

Plants take in water and **nutrients** from soil through their roots.



Lawn

1 inch (2.5 cm)



A lawn isn't just one plant. In a square of lawn this big, there are up to 10 individual grass plants.





Plants make food for energy inside their leaves.

To do this, they need air and sunshine.

## Let's Explore!



Make a map of a yard or your school playground.

### Gather your equipment:

- Paper with small squares
- Colored pencils
- Camera or phone

1. Begin by using big steps to measure the size of the yard. Using your measurements, draw the edges of the yard. Each step will be one square on the paper.
2. Now draw the yard's trees, grass, and other plants on the map. Also add details such as paths, a shed, or a patio.
3. Go on a wildlife treasure hunt. When you see a bird, snail, bee, or other animal, add an X on the map in the place where you spotted it.
4. Draw the animals or take a photo of them. You can also make a tally chart.

*Where did you see the most animals?  
Why do you think this is?*

*Did you spot an animal eating?*

*Did you find a nest or animal home?*

