



Finding out where animals live

Even in a small area there will be many different kinds of places where animals live.

It takes practice to spot where things live. Remember that a plant or an animal can live in an area of any size, and that this area will contain many other plants and animals. For example, a small piece of ground can provide a habitat for woodlice, beetles and bees. They each live in a different part of the same area (Pictures 1 and 2), so they have different habitats.

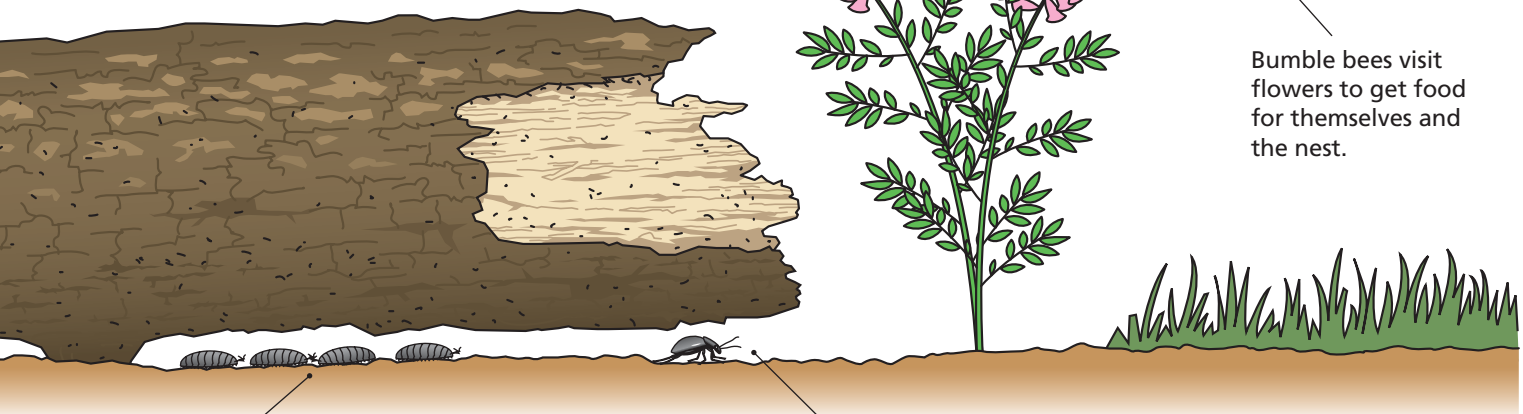
Where woodlice live

If you turn over a rotting piece of wood, you are likely to spot a woodlouse (Picture 3). Woodlice like to live in wet, dark



▲ (Picture 2) This beetle hunts along the ground and can be trapped using a sunken trap covered with moss. You should catch more beetles in places where they commonly live than in other places.

▼ (Picture 1) A small piece of ground provides a habitat for woodlice, beetles and bees.



Woodlice like shady, damp places to hide. They feed on rotting wood.

Ground beetles hunt among the shadows, hiding from birds that might eat them.

Bumble bees visit flowers to get food for themselves and the nest.

places (habitats). The wood is the source of food for the woodlouse. Being wet makes the wood soft and easier to eat.

If you walked along a path, the chances are that you would never find a woodlouse out in the open on dry ground.

You could test out this idea by keeping some woodlice in a tray with damp wood, some sand and dry grass. Over a couple of days, look to see where the woodlice are. This will give a clue as to the sort of place they like to live in. Then cover the tray over to make it dark. Lift off the cover and see if the woodlice have ventured away from the wood. This will let you find out if they are more afraid of the light than the dry ground.

Where bees live

Bees are common in summer, so it is easy to find out where they live. You will find bees moving among flowers in open ground, but you rarely find them in the shade under trees (Picture 4). This is because the bees are searching for food from flowers, and the flowers they are looking for are mainly found in the open. Open ground with flowers, like meadows, is the bees' habitat.

Summary

- Each animal has its own kind of place where it lives.
- You can get some idea of where something lives by looking to see where you do and do not find it.



► (Picture 3)
Woodlice have been found on the underside of this dead piece of wood.

▼ (Picture 4) Bees make their nest in a hole in the ground (bumble bees) or a hollow in a tree (honey bees), but they need a large area in which to find their food. So their habitat depends on finding both a suitable nest site and a large selection of flowers close by.

