



Living together

Many plants and animals share the same living area. However, this can also mean danger.

A nice, sunny rock close to a stream may be shared by many living things. For example, some small plants may grow on it, or it may be a resting place for dragonflies. But it is also a good place for lizards and other reptiles to sun themselves and warm up (Picture 1).

When you look around, you find many different kinds of living things. Each different kind of living thing is called a **SPECIES**. Species are groups that breed together. Each species that you see in an area is using that place as part of its home.

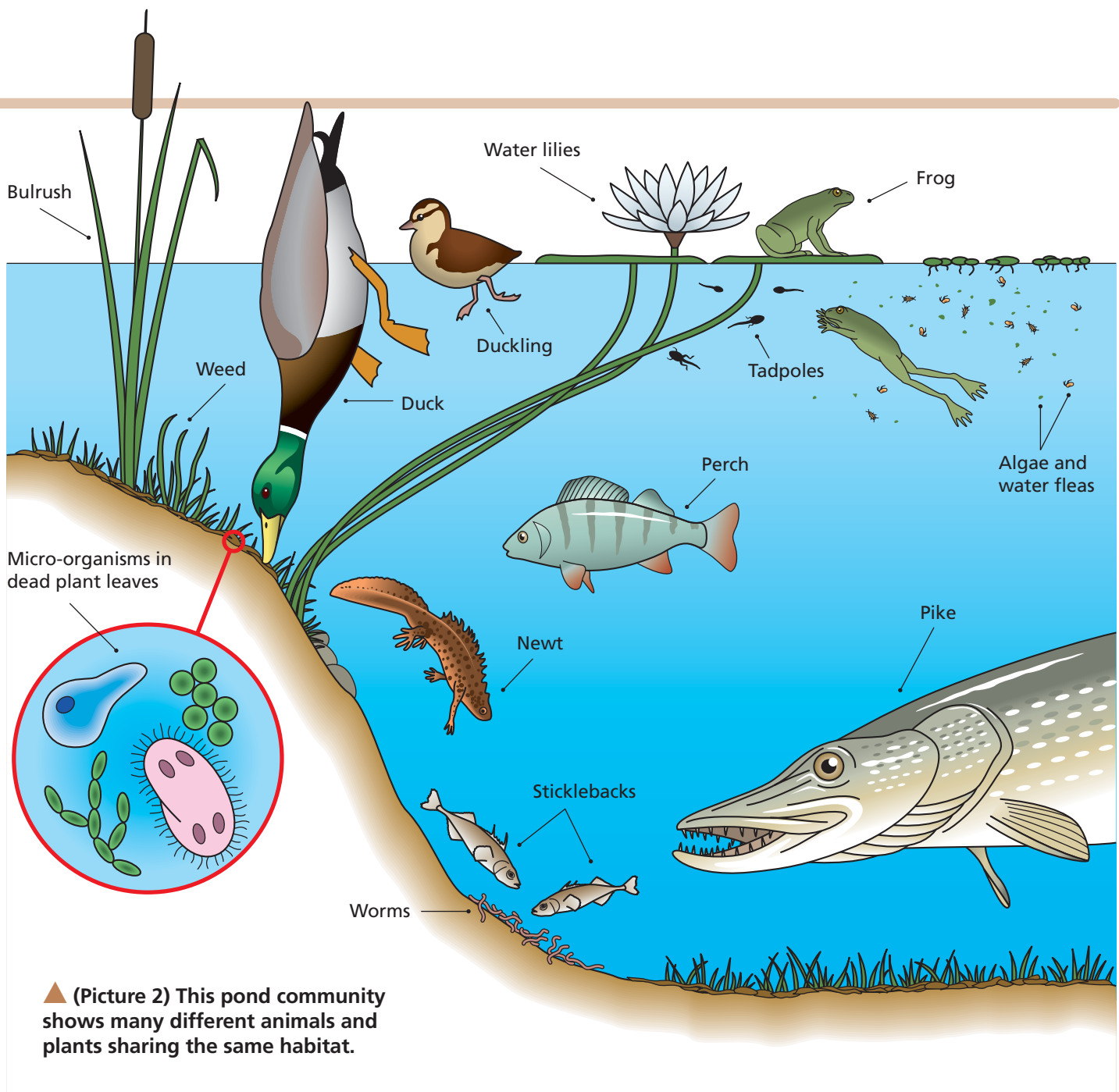
▼ (Picture 1) These terrapins are fish eaters so they live by lakes and rivers, but because they are cold-blooded, they also have to find sunny places to warm up.

How many things can live together?

Every living thing has to choose a home where it can find food. In the case of plants, this means that there has to be enough nourishment in the soil, sunlight and water for their needs. Some plants need a lot of food and water, while others can live in areas with poor soils.

Animals have to find somewhere with enough plants, or other animals, to eat. Some animals will eat many different types of plants or animals, others eat only one type of food. The panda, for example, eats just bamboo, while most bears will eat fruit, insects, fish and other animals.





In general, a place where there is a good soil, warm, sunny conditions and enough water there will be home to many living things. This means that many plants or animals of the same kind will live there.

Communities

All of the living things in an area make up a **COMMUNITY**. The community is

entirely self-contained. It does not need anything from outside except water, air and sunlight. So communities of plants and animals can all share the same home (habitat) (Picture 2).

Summary

- Many plants and animals can share the same home.
- A group of plants and animals living together is called a community.