

### Activity 3: Acquiring geographical information – What are animal habitats and the elements of habitats?

Some of the natural features of forests provide habitat for animals. Habitat is place in which an animal lives. It provides the requirements the animal needs for survival including shelter, food and water. Natural environments have many different habitat elements. Natural features that provide habitat for animals can be grouped into living and non-living.

Students view the examples of habitat elements in Sources 3 to 6. They highlight each labeled natural feature in Source 2 that is a habitat element, adding additional labels if needed. As an optional activity, students research the habitat values of each element.

#### LIVING HABITAT ELEMENTS: Trees, shrubs and groundcover plants

**Source 3:** Tree – Christmas bush, Australian botanical drawing, late 1700s



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=88456>

**Source 4:** Shrub – Hop goodenia, Australian botanical drawing, late 1700s



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=88456>

**Source 5:** Groundcover – (unidentified) Australian botanical drawing, late 1700s



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=88456>

**NON-LIVING HABITAT ELEMENTS: Leaf litter, water, rocks and logs**

**Source 6:** Rocky waterhole, natural history and botanical drawings, ca.1849-1872, attributed to Louisa Atkinson (Item 4)



<http://www.acmssearch.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/itemDetailPaged.cgi?itemID=446170>

What is animal habitat?

List the living and non-living elements of animal habitats.