

# Read About How Living Things Change Their Environment

## WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENT?

An environment is the place where living things live. Many living things change their environments by building homes, digging in the ground and moving things around.

*To better understand how living things change their environment...*

## LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

### Animals build their homes in their environment.

Prairie dogs dig tunnels to create burrows. Burrows are shelters under the ground. When prairie dogs build tunnels, they change the shape of the land.



### Beavers can flood areas of land.

Beavers build dams using trees, sticks, mud and rocks. The whole beaver family works together to build the dam. The flooding causes huge changes to their environment.

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## Animals make changes to the environment by eating.

When a macaw eats seeds, it will fly somewhere else and then eventually poop the seeds out. This helps plants grow in new places and changes their environment.



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## Plants can also change their environment.

Sometimes the roots of plants can grow into cracks in rock or concrete. The roots can make the cracks get bigger. You may have seen sidewalk cracks made bigger by plants.

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## People can change their environment in good and bad ways.

People can help their environment by cleaning up trash and recycling. People sometimes hurt their environment when they cut down too many trees or litter.



**ENVIRONMENT VOCABULARY**

**Environment**

The place where a plant or animal lives.

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**Burrow**

A hole in the ground made by an animal for shelter.

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**Dam**

A natural barrier that blocks the flow of water.

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**Nest**

A shelter made by an animal to protect their eggs and babies.

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**Seed**

The part of a plant that plants can grow from.

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**Help**

To make better.

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## ***ENVIRONMENT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

### **How does a prairie dog change its environment?**

Prairie dogs dig tunnels underground. When they do this they move around a lot of dirt.

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### **How are prairie dog burrows good for the environment?**

The burrows can help grasses to grow by aerating the soil. They also help create homes for other animals when they move on to new areas.

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### **How does a beaver change its environment?**

Beavers build dams in rivers or streams and change the flow of the water. This can flood areas of land, which is a very big change to the environment.

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### **In what ways do birds change their environment?**

Some birds eat seeds and then poop them out in other places. This helps plants spread their seeds and grow in new areas. Another way birds change their environment is by building nests.

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### **What are some good ways that people can change their environment?**

People can change the environment by picking up trash and recycling. They can also ride their bikes instead of driving in cars.

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### **What are some bad ways that people change their environment?**

People can harm the environment by polluting rivers with plastics and trash. They can also choose not to recycle, which results in more garbage in the landfills.

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