

Għadira nature reserve

Site visit worksheets for Form 1 Integrated Science and Geography

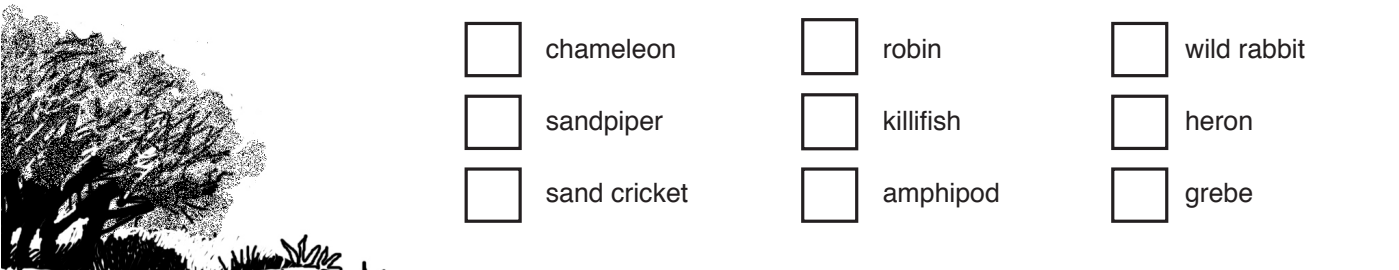
Habitats

The place where an animal or plant lives is called its **habitat**. We have several habitats in the Maltese Islands.

A. Name three different habitats that you find at this site:

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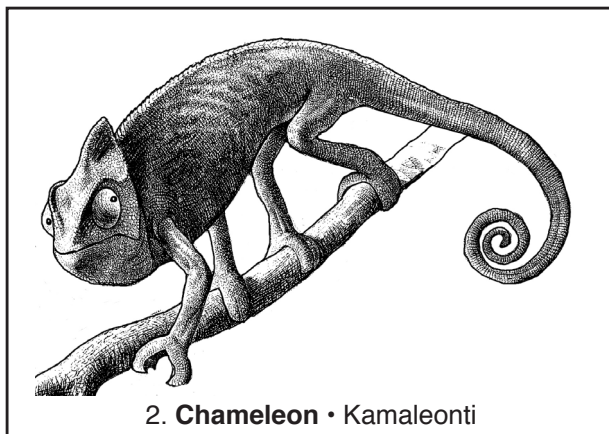
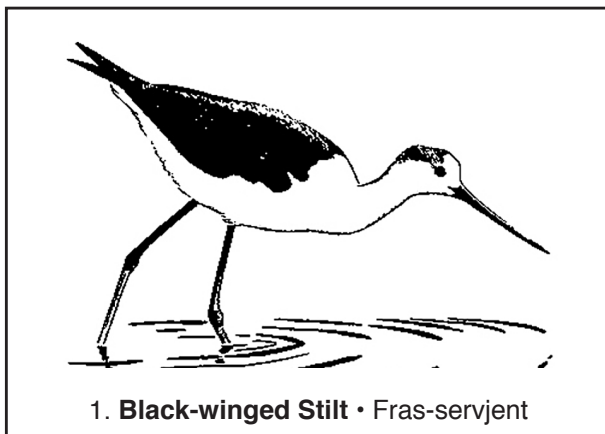
B. All these animals can be found at Għadira. Number them according to their habitat below:

	<input type="checkbox"/> chameleon	<input type="checkbox"/> robin	<input type="checkbox"/> wild rabbit
	<input type="checkbox"/> sandpiper	<input type="checkbox"/> killifish	<input type="checkbox"/> heron
	<input type="checkbox"/> sand cricket	<input type="checkbox"/> amphipod	<input type="checkbox"/> grebe
1 trees	2 dry ground	3 shore and shallows	4 open water

Adaptations

An **adaptation** is a special function, behaviour or physical feature that helps a plant or an animal to **survive** in its surrounding.

Here are two animals that occur at Għadira. For each, find one adaptation that helps it live in its habitat.



1. _____

2. _____

Vital Functions

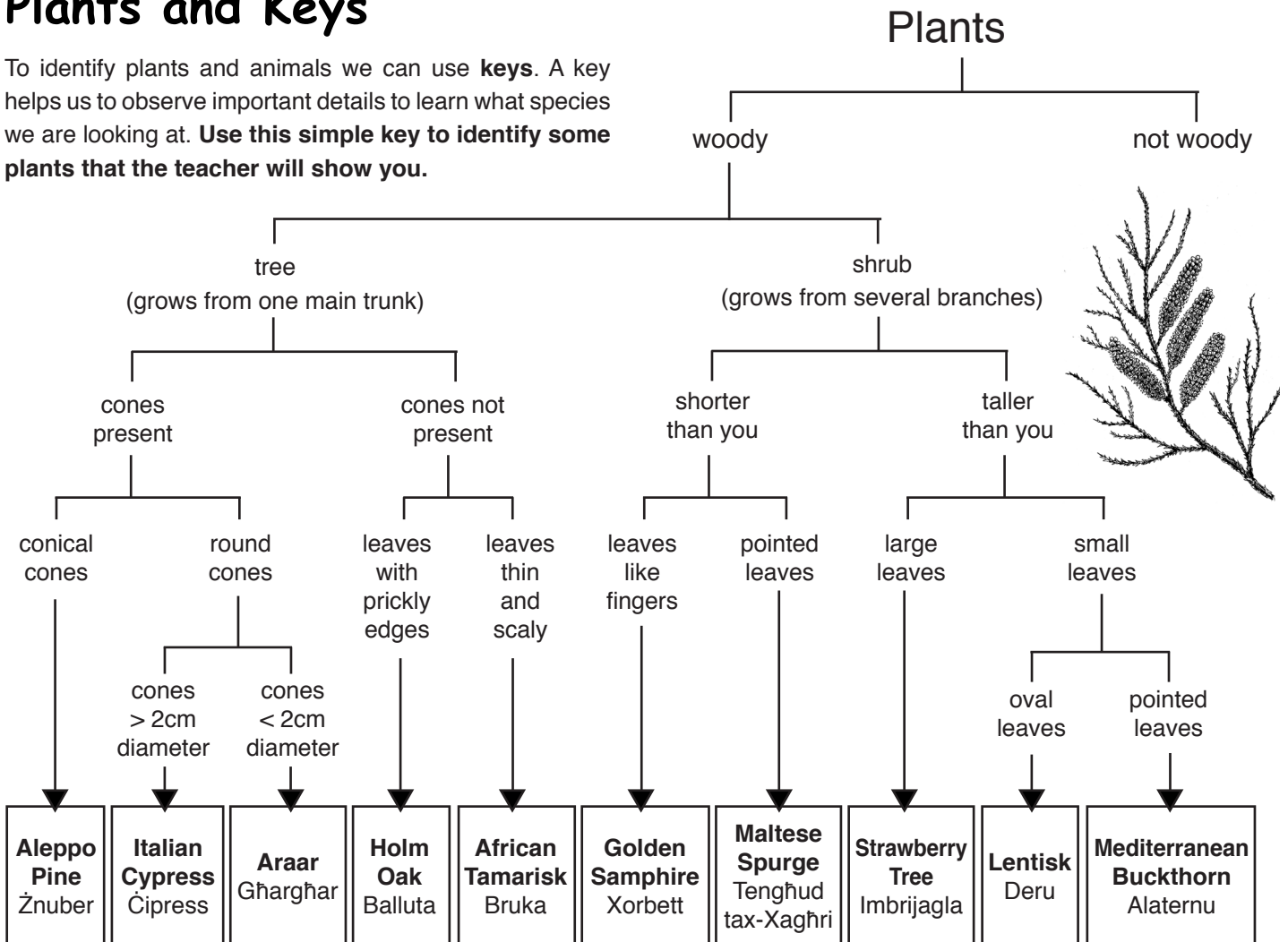
All living things carry out **seven vital functions**. These are MOVEMENT • FEEDING • GROWTH • RESPIRATION • SENSITIVITY • REPRODUCTION • EXCRETION. Without these functions, living things cannot survive.

While you walk on the trail, see if you can find signs of any of these vital functions around you:

Observation	Living thing	vital function

Plants and Keys

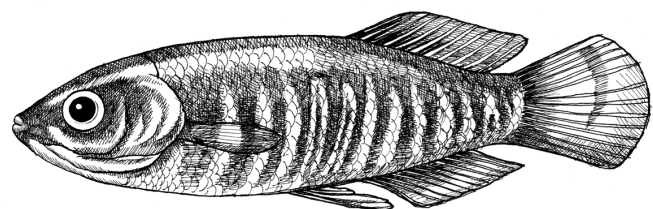
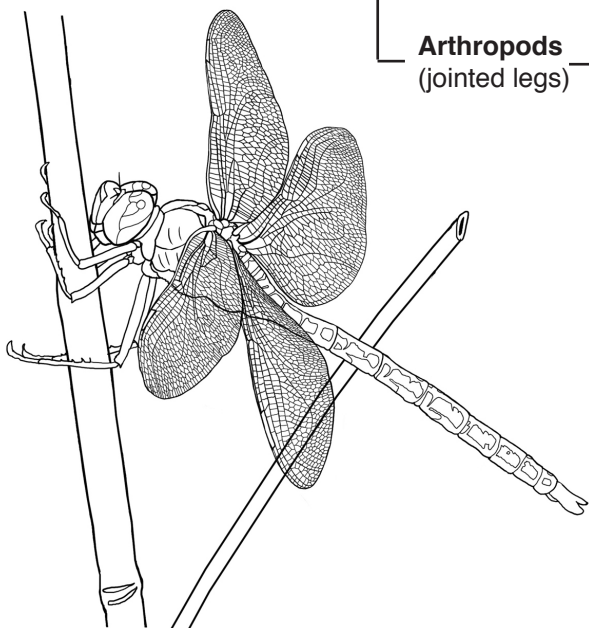
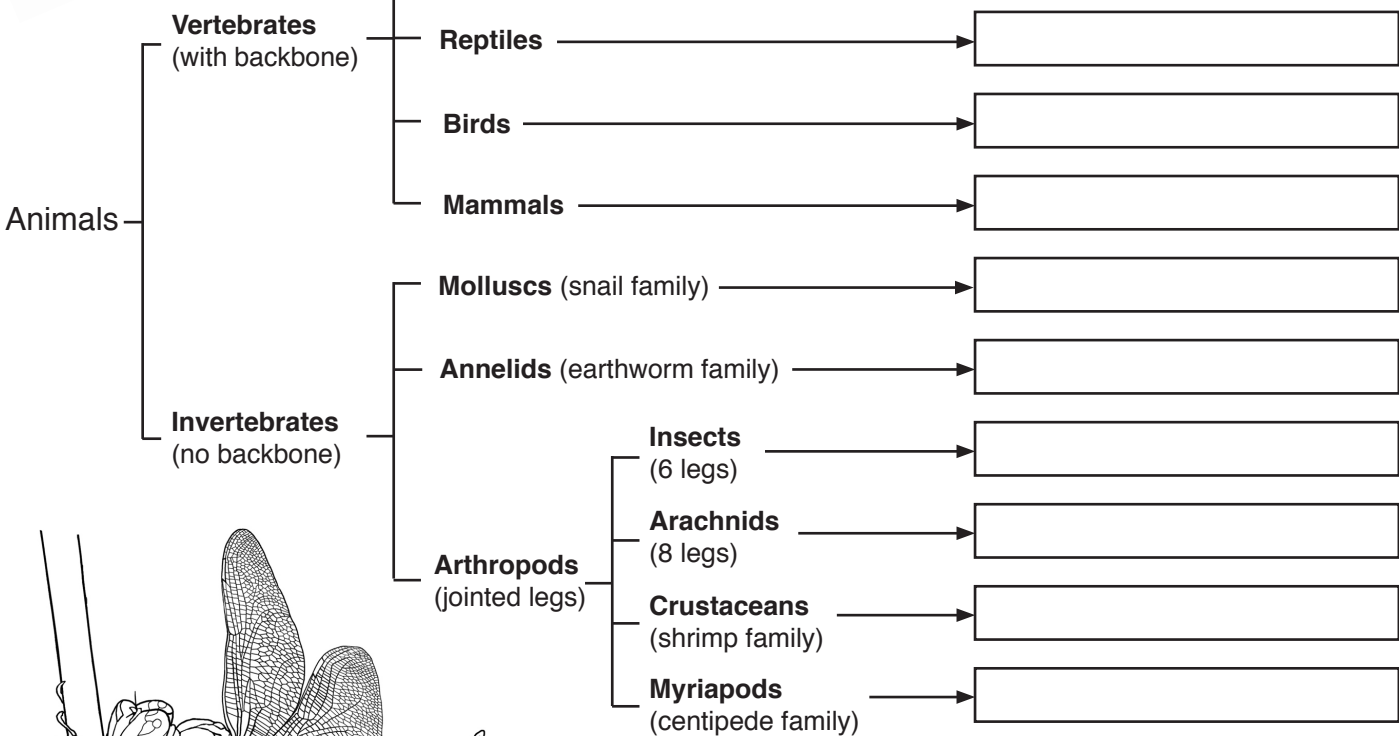
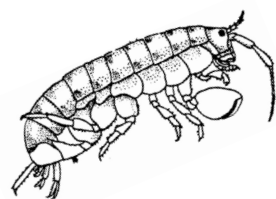
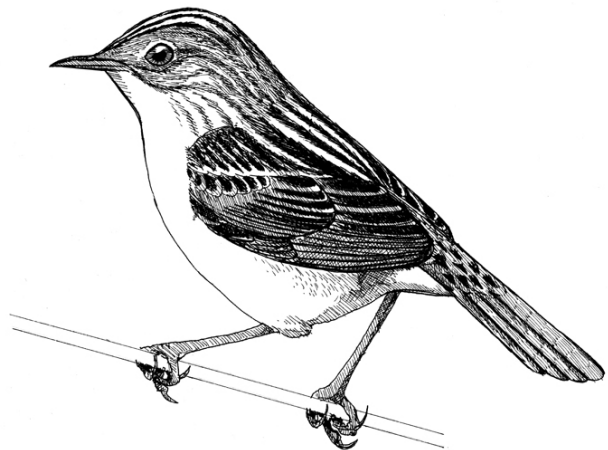
To identify plants and animals we can use **keys**. A key helps us to observe important details to learn what species we are looking at. **Use this simple key to identify some plants that the teacher will show you.**



Classification

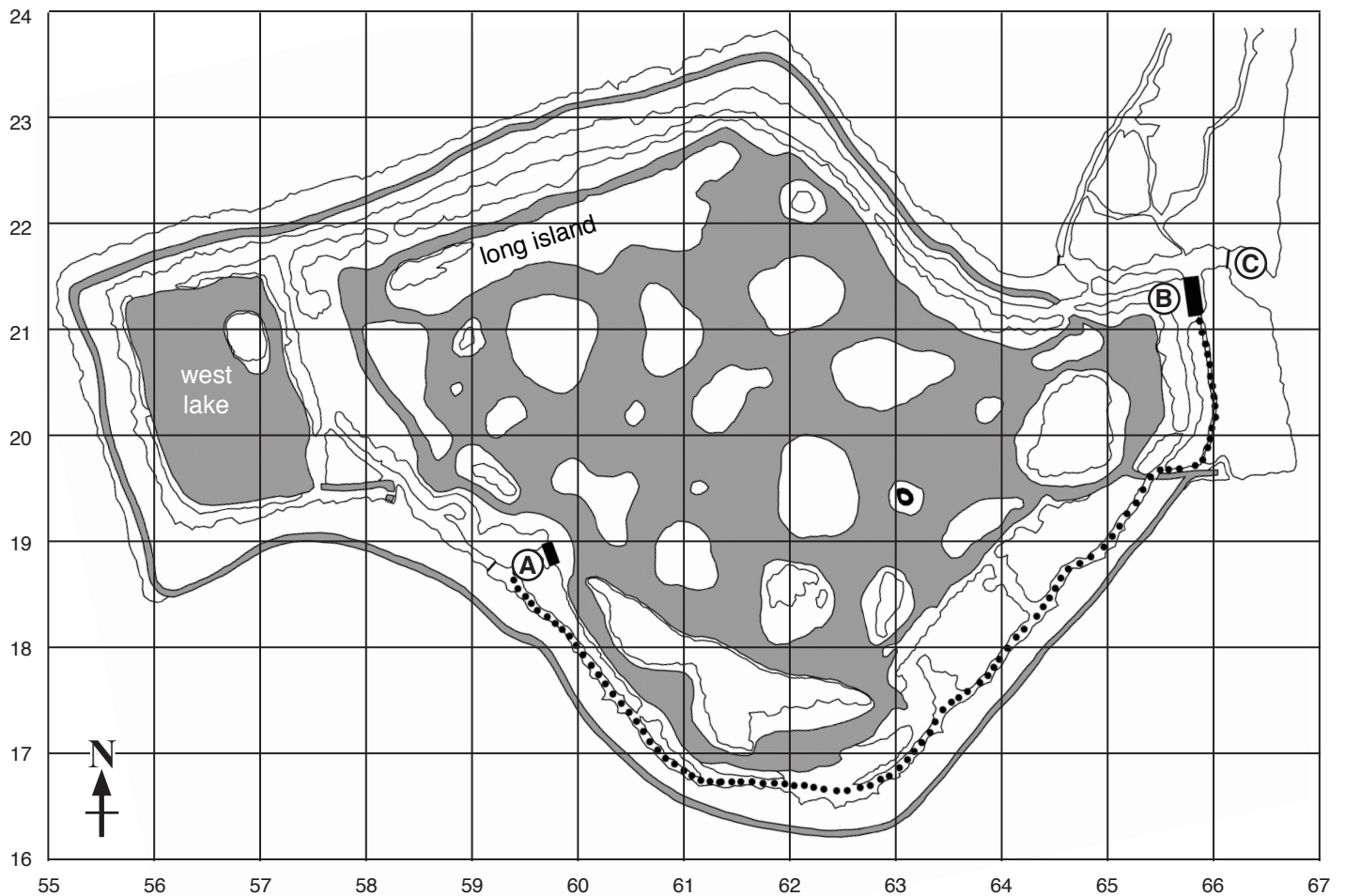
Scientists put plants and animals in groups and families according to how similar they are to each other. This work is called **classification**.

Here is a simple classification of the Animal Kingdom.
Classify some of the animals you saw on your visit by writing them in the correct boxes.



Maps and Symbols

Here is a map of Ghadira nature reserve.








A. What features are at the following gridlines?

- 6621 _____
- 5620 _____


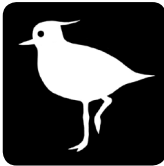






B. Give the gridlines of the following features:

- the birdwatching hide _____
- the visitor centre _____

Legend	
	area with water
	nature trail
	birdwatching hide
	visitor centre
	main entrance

C. Underline the correct direction: The hide is (north • south • west • east) of the long island.

D. Tick the symbols that you think are relevant to this site:

							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Human Impact

To live **sustainably** means to live in a way that doesn't damage the environment. Many people waste a lot of resources and cause much pollution. Other people are more careful and try to live without destroying nature or its habitats.

Make a list of human activities that you saw in this area. Put a Smiley if you think they are positive for the environment, or a Grumpy if you think they are negative.



Għadira - History and Location

Ghadira nature reserve is located north of Mellieħa , near the sandy beach in Mellieħa Bay. The **wetland** lies at the east end of Wied il-Qammieħ, between Marfa Ridge and a rocky **hillock** known as Il-Bisqra. Parts of the ground are below sea level, where seawater seeps through the sand and forms a **saline** pool. In the rainy season the pool grows and becomes a **brackish lake**. Around the lake there is a rich **saltmarsh** habitat.

In ancient times Ghadira was probably a **coastal lagoon**. For many centuries people controlled the water in the area and used the place as a **saltpan**. The area was abandoned and Ghadira silted up with sand and sediment. It became a **seasonal lake**, holding water only in the rainy season. It was used as a carpark in summer, and by hunters in the other seasons. In 1978 Ghadira became a **bird sanctuary** and in 1980 work began to make it Malta's first **nature reserve**. Today many birds visit Ghadira, and many people too. BirdLife Malta looks after the nature reserve.



A. Match the terms with their definition:

- **wetland** 1. A lake that dries up in summer
- **hillock** 2. A lake near the sea
- **saline** 3. A place where all nature is protected
- **brackish lake** 4. A low hill
- **saltmarsh** 5. A place where people collect salt from evaporated seawater
- **coastal lagoon** 6. A place where birds are protected
- **saltpan** 7. Another word for salty
- **seasonal lake** 8. An area of land with water in it or near it
- **bird sanctuary** 9. A habitat with plants that live in salty conditions
- **nature reserve** 10. A lake with a mix of seawater and fresh water.

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