

Is-Simar nature reserve

Site visit worksheets for Form 1 Integrated Science and Geography

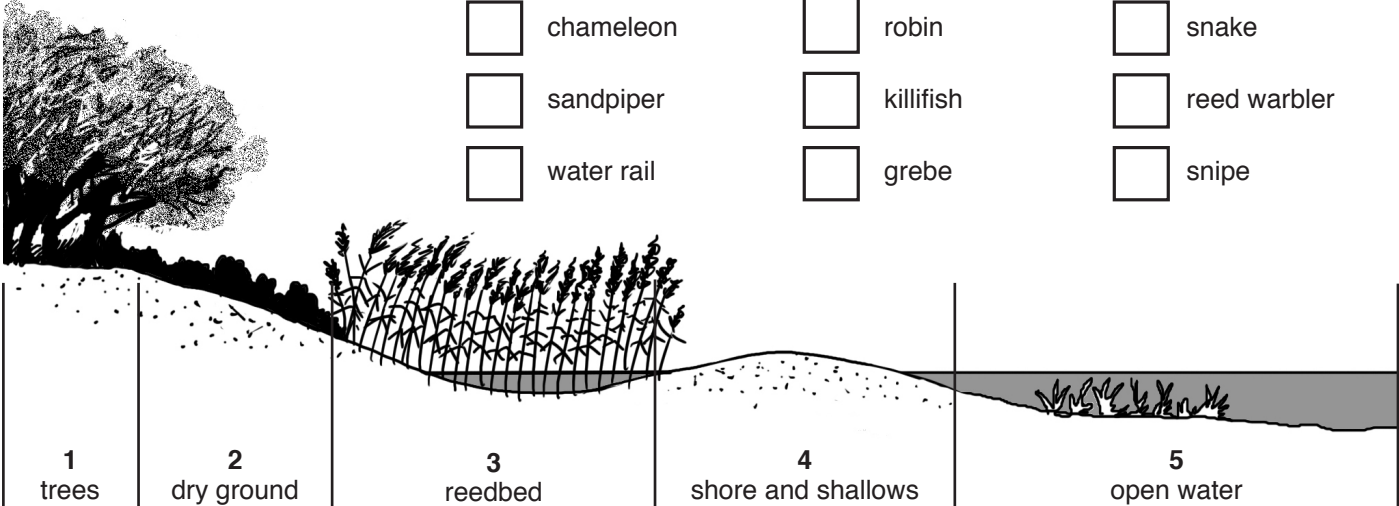
Habitats

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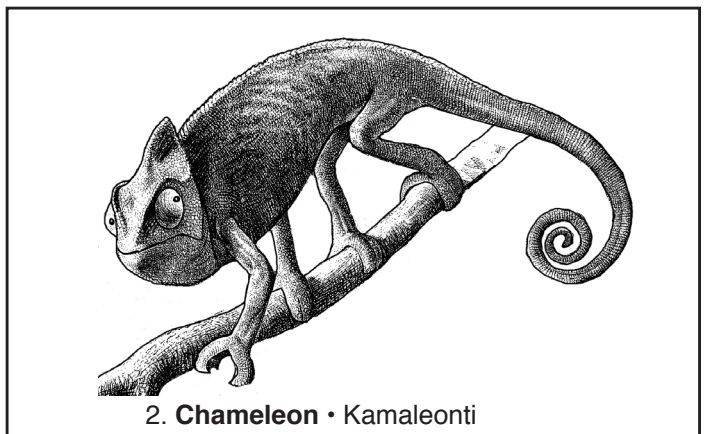
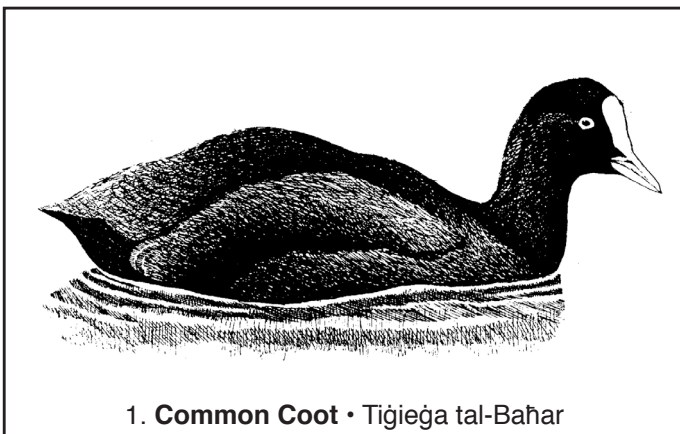
B. All these animals can be found at Is-Simar. Number them according to their habitat below:

	<input type="checkbox"/> chameleon	<input type="checkbox"/> robin	<input type="checkbox"/> snake	
	<input type="checkbox"/> sandpiper	<input type="checkbox"/> killifish	<input type="checkbox"/> reed warbler	
	<input type="checkbox"/> water rail	<input type="checkbox"/> grebe	<input type="checkbox"/> snipe	
1 trees	2 dry ground	3 reedbed	4 shore and shallows	5 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 Is-Simar. For each, find one adaptation that helps it live in its habitat.



1. _____

2. _____

Vital Functions

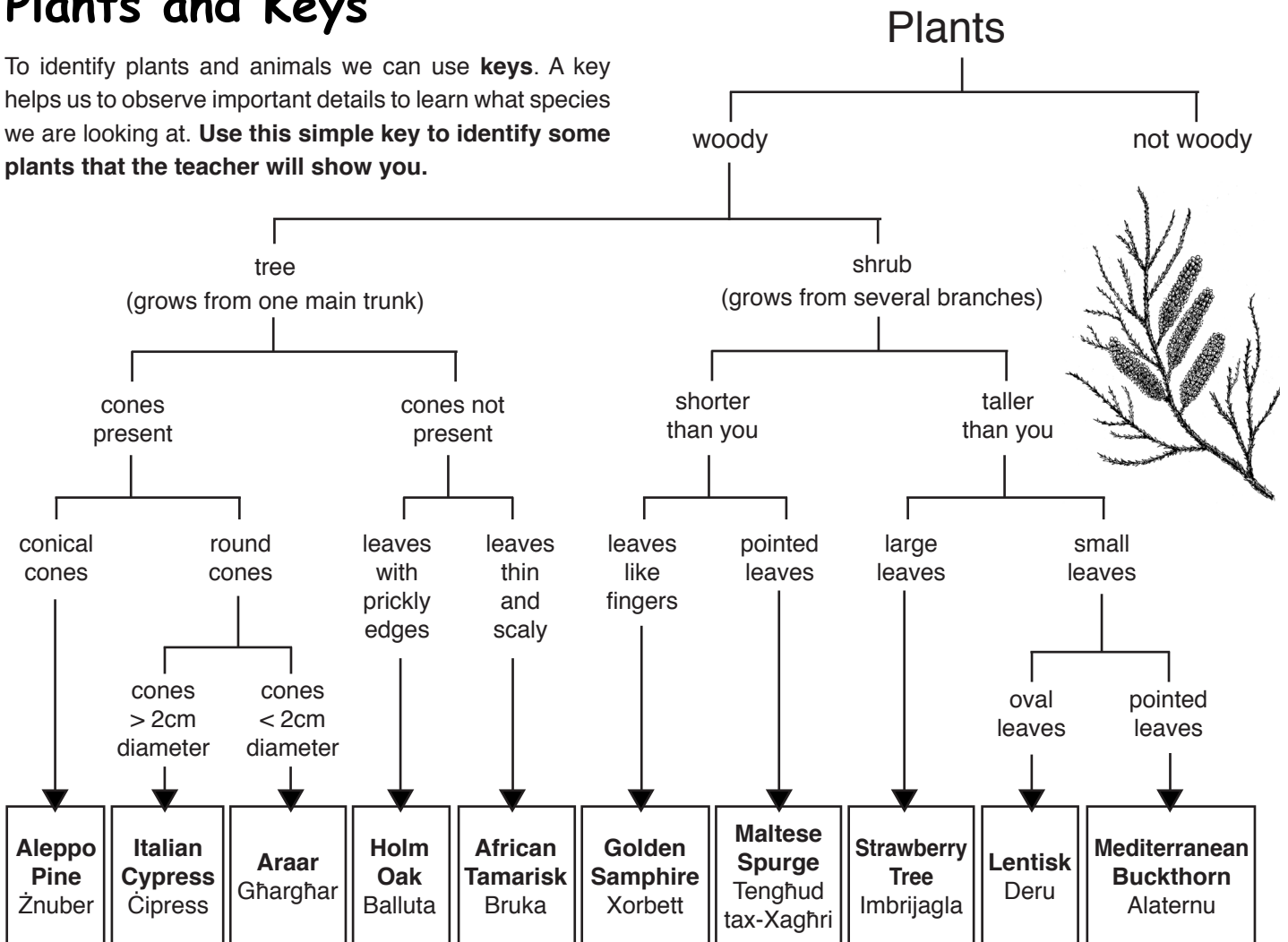
All living things carry out **seven vital functions**. These are MOVEMENT • FEEDING • GROWTH • RESPIRATION • SENSITIVITY • REPRODUCTION • EXCRETION. Without these functions, living things cannot survive.

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.**



Consumers

All animals are **consumers** but they don't all eat the same things. Some eat plants, some eat other animals, and some eat both plants and animals.

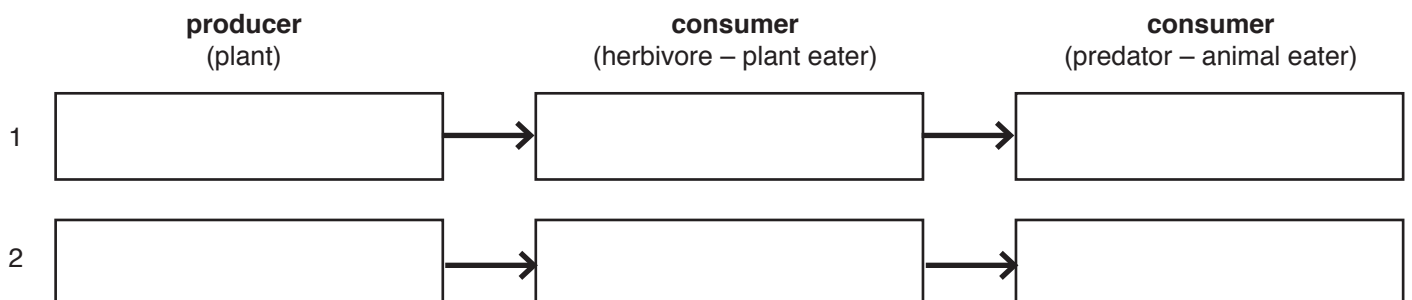
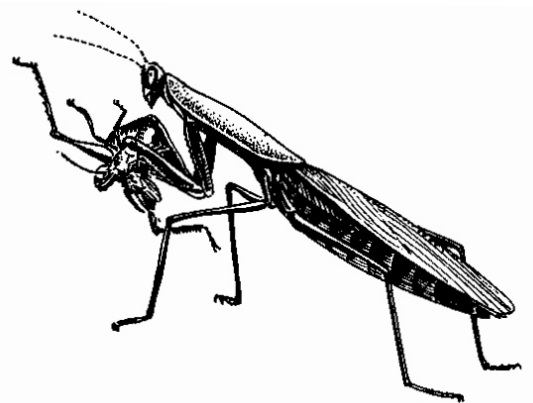
Make a list of any animals that you see on your visit. List the animals according to what they eat.

herbivores (plant eaters)	predators (animal eaters)	omnivores (eat plants + animals)

Foodchains

When we connect animals with their food we form **foodchains**. When different animals eat the same food, foodchains join together and form **foodwebs**. Almost all foodchains begin with plants.

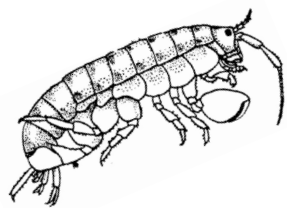
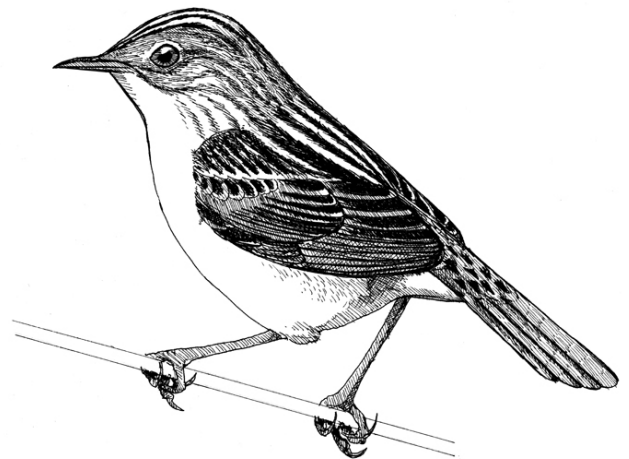
Build two short foodchains in the boxes below.
 Try to use living things that you saw during your visit.
 Remember: the arrows always point at the eater.



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.



Animals

Vertebrates
(with backbone)

Invertebrates
(no backbone)

Fish

Amphibians

Reptiles

Birds

Mammals

Molluscs (snail family)

Annelids (earthworm family)

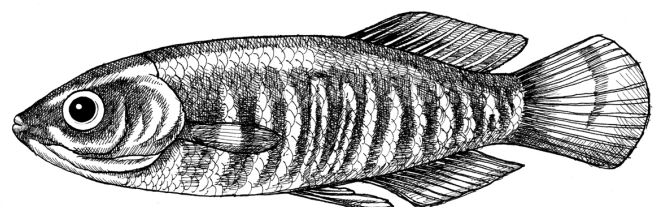
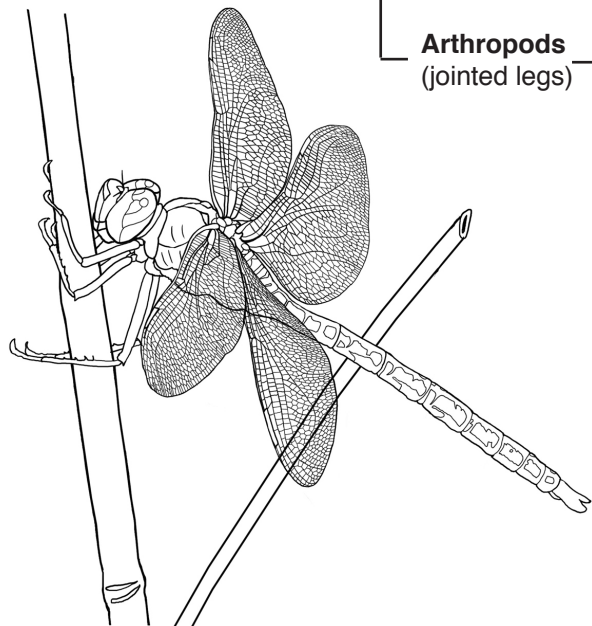
Arthropods
(jointed legs)

Insects
(6 legs)

Arachnids
(8 legs)

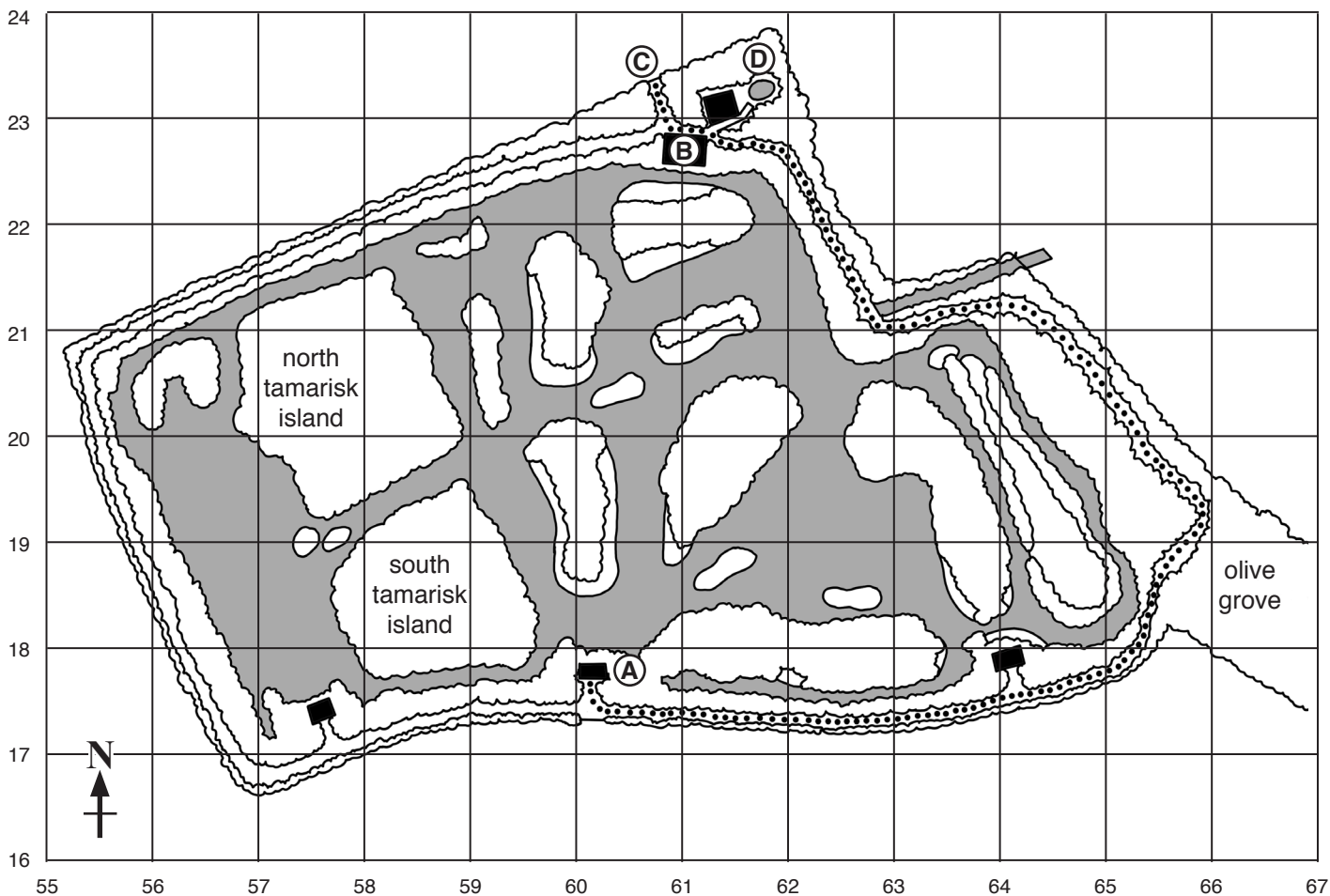
Crustaceans
(shrimp family)

Myriapods
(centipede family)



Maps and Symbols

Here is a map of Is-Simar nature reserve.



A. What features are at the following gridlines?

1. 6023 _____
2. 5720 _____

B. Give the gridlines of the following features:

1. the birdwatching hide _____
2. the freshwater pond _____

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

C. Underline the correct direction: The olive grove is on the (north • south • west • east) side of the nature reserve.

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.



Is-Simar - History and Location

Is-Simar nature reserve is located in Xemxija, next to the busy road in Xemxija bay. The **wetland** lies at the east end of Wied il-Pwales, between Wardija **Ridge** and Bajda Ridge. Parts of the ground are below sea level, where seawater seeps through the ground and forms a **saline** lake. In the rainy season the lake becomes **brackish** and sometimes almost freshwater. Around it grows a **reedbed** and a **saltmarsh**.



Wied il-Pwales is a wide and fertile **rift valley**. Most of it is cultivated but the east side was always too marshy and exposed to the sea to make good farmland. To drain the water quickly, farmers cut a canal down the middle and planted eucalypts, trees that take up lots of ground water. To protect from sea spray and **grigal** gales a thick **grove** of tamarisk was planted. In 1992, with help from the government, BirdLife Malta began a project to turn Is-Simar into a **nature reserve**. Today many birds visit Is-Simar, and many people too. BirdLife looks after the nature reserve.



A. Match the terms with their definition:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| ● wetland | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. The northeast wind |
| ● ridge | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. An area with a thick growth of reeds |
| ● saline | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. A place where all nature is protected |
| ● brackish lake | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. A long, narrow hilltop |
| ● reedbed | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. A valley caused by land subsidence |
| ● saltmarsh | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Another word for salty |
| ● rift valley | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. An area of land with water in it or near it |
| ● grigal | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. A habitat with plants that live in salty conditions |
| ● grove | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. A lake with a mix of seawater and fresh water |
| ● nature reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. An area planted with trees |