



Habitats and the Local Environment - Get Outside!

A plant or animal's home is called a **habitat**.

The habitat of the mulberry tree at Hogarth's House looks much different today than when it was planted 350 years ago.



The garden used to be in a **rural** area, with lots of other trees that had delicious fruit. Today the garden is in a **city**, with lots of busy roads and buildings.

Over time, London has grown bigger and bigger. Many trees had to be cut down to make room for more houses, roads, shops and people, but the mulberry tree remains.

Think about it. What evidence can we see around us of how our local environment has changed over time. Look out for these clues!

Trees. The older the tree is, the fatter its trunk gets.

Take a piece of string with you on your walk to wrap around trees you can reach. The measurement around the tree trunk is called the circumference.

The tree that needs the longest piece of string has the biggest circumference. It is probably the oldest!

Houses. Many old buildings display the year they were built.

What is the oldest you can find?

Road names. Roads are often named for a reason, like:

- The town the road leads to
- Someone who lived nearby
- A building that once stood there

Investigate! Can you think of how a road near you got its name?

Challenge! Who can find the fattest tree? Ask an adult to tell us on social media using **#HogarthAtHome**