

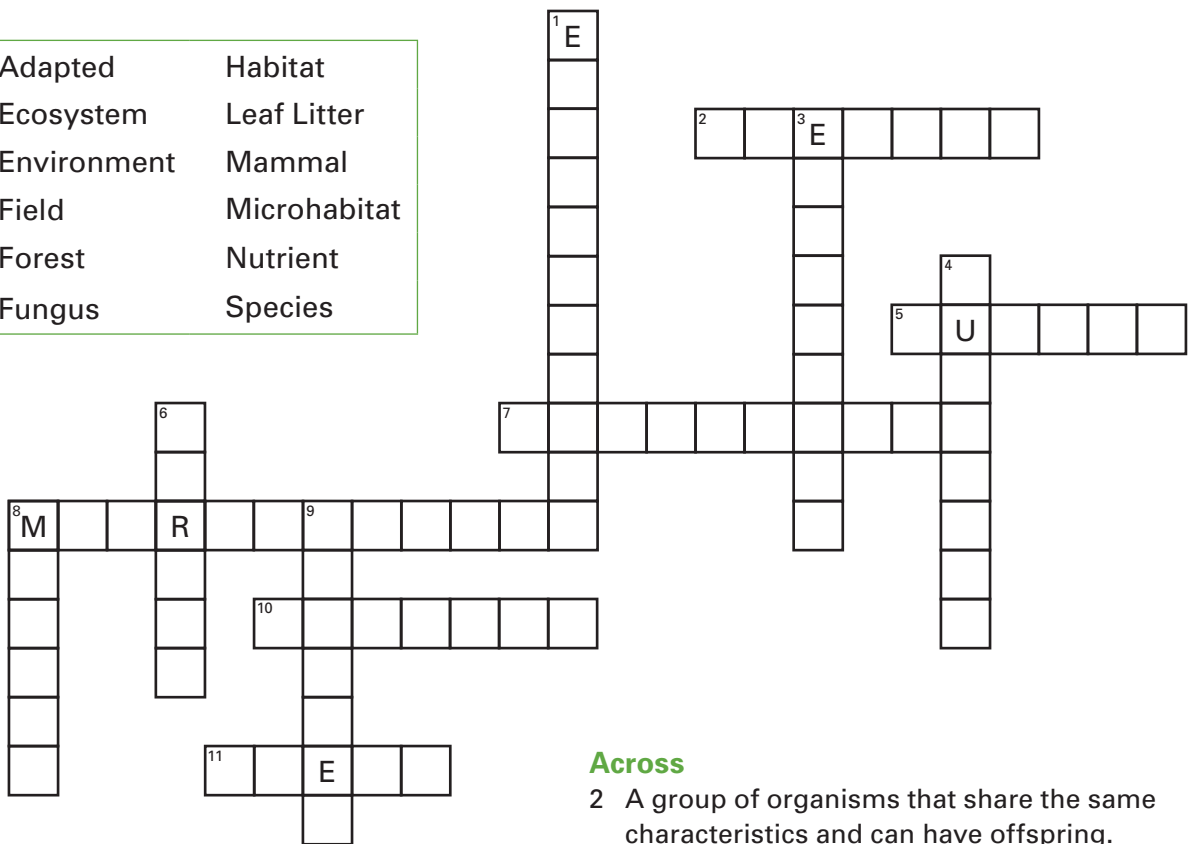
# Key Vocabulary: The Forest of S.T. Shrew

An ecosystem is a community of plants, animals, and other organisms that live in the same area or environment. In an ecosystem, living things interact with each other and with their environment. This complex interaction of organisms and their

environment sustains life in the ecosystem.

Use the clues and the word bank below to finish the crossword puzzle and uncover key vocabulary for this lesson. You'll see that some letters have been filled in for you.

Word Bank	Adapted	Habitat
	Ecosystem	Leaf Litter
	Environment	Mammal
	Field	Microhabitat
	Forest	Nutrient
	Fungus	Species



## Down

- 1 Everything around an organism that affects it.
- 3 A community of living things interacting with their environment.
- 4 A substance needed for health and growth.
- 6 A large area of land densely covered with trees.
- 8 A warm-blooded animal that has fur or hair and produces milk for its young.
- 9 Suited to certain conditions in the environment.

## Across

- 2 A group of organisms that share the same characteristics and can have offspring.
- 5 An organism that gets nutrients by absorbing materials from its surroundings.
- 7 Leaves and other dead plant matter that have fallen to the ground.
- 8 A small habitat where very small organisms live.
- 10 An area that provides an organism with enough food, water, shelter, and space to live.
- 11 An open area of land where there are no trees or buildings.