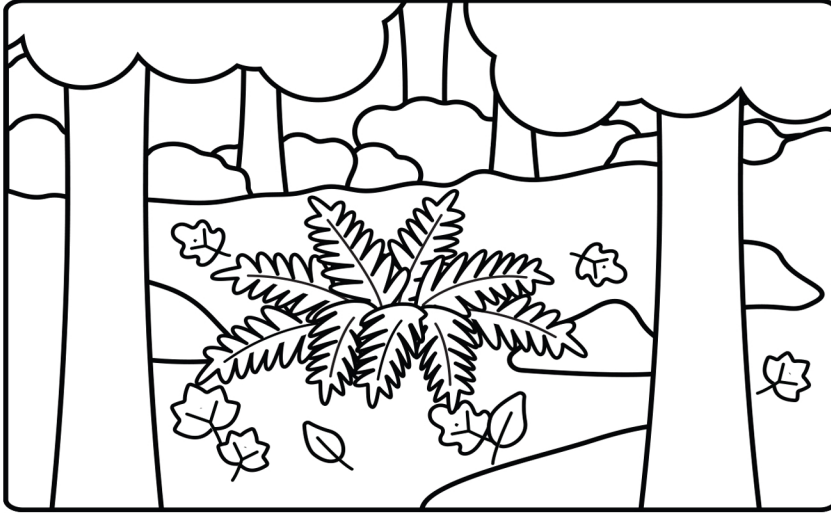


**Word Bank:**

fern

flower

shade

moist

Fern Habitats & Adaptations

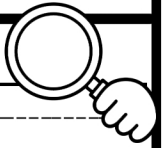
Ferns almost always grow in shady, damp places, like the floor of a forest. Why? Ferns need moisture to complete an important part of their life cycle, so a dry, sunny spot would make it hard for them to reproduce. Shade also helps, since too much direct sunlight can dry out a fern's delicate leaves. Since ferns are adapted to shady, moist habitats, they don't have to compete as much with flowering plants, which usually need bright sunlight to grow. This means a forest floor can be a perfect home for a fern, even though it might seem too dark and damp for other plants. A habitat is simply the natural home of a living thing, and it provides everything that living thing needs to survive.

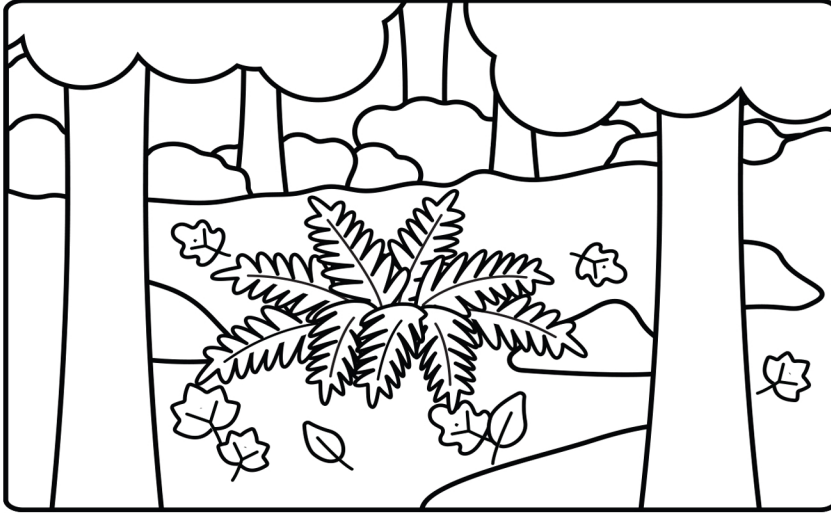
1. Why do ferns need moisture to survive?

2. What is a habitat?

3. Why might a shady forest floor be a good habitat for a fern but not for a sun-loving flower?

4. Name one adaptation that helps a fern survive in its habitat.



**Word Bank:**

fern

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Fern Habitats & Adaptations

Ferns almost always grow in shady, damp places, like the floor of a forest. Why? Ferns need moisture to complete an important part of their life cycle, so a dry, sunny spot would make it hard for them to reproduce. Shade also helps, since too much direct sunlight can dry out a fern's delicate leaves. Since ferns are adapted to shady, moist habitats, they don't have to compete as much with flowering plants, which usually need bright sunlight to grow. This means a forest floor can be a perfect home for a fern, even though it might seem too dark and damp for other plants. A habitat is simply the natural home of a living thing, and it provides everything that living thing needs to survive.

1. Why do ferns need moisture to survive?

Ferns need moisture to complete part of their life cycle (fertilization).

2. What is a habitat?

A habitat is the natural home of a living thing that provides everything it needs to survive.

3. Why might a shady forest floor be a good habitat for a fern but not for a sun-loving flower?

Sample answer: A shady, damp forest floor gives ferns the moisture and shade they need, but a sun-loving flower needs bright light, which the forest floor doesn't provide.

4. Name one adaptation that helps a fern survive in its habitat.

A fern's broad, flat fronds help it catch limited sunlight in a shady habitat.

