



CLASSIFYING LIVING THINGS

Vocabulary

amphibian: an animal with an internal skeleton that lives both in and out of water

bacteria: single-celled organisms, most of which can only be seen with a microscope

bird: an animal that can often fly and has an internal skeleton

fauna: living things that are animals

fermentation: a change brought about by ferment (e.g. yeast into alcohol)

fish: an animal with an internal skeleton that lives in water and has gills

flora: living things that are plants

fungi: taxonomic kingdom comprising all the fungus groups and sometimes also the slime moulds

genus: the group that an organism belongs to
insect: an animal with six legs

invertebrate: animal without a backbone
mammal: an animal that gives birth to live young

microbe: tiny single-celled bacteria
mushroom: any of various fleshy fungi including the toadstools, puffballs, coral fungi and morels

organisms: living things

reptile: are animals that are cold-blooded. Most reptiles lay eggs and their skin is covered with hard, dry scales

species: the sub-group within the genus that an organism belongs to

We are learning to:

- Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals
- Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY

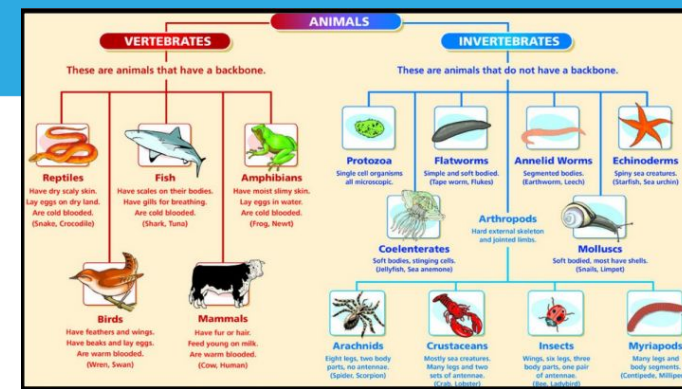
- Plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions,
- Take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment.
- Record data and results of increasing complexity.
- Use test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests.
- Report and present findings from enquiries.
- Identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

OVERVIEW

- Living things can be formally grouped according to characteristics.
- Plants and animals are two main groups but there are other living things that do not fit into these groups.
- Plants can make their own food whereas animals cannot.
- Animals can be divided into two main groups: those that have backbones (vertebrates); and those that do not (invertebrates).
- Vertebrates can be divided into five small groups: fish; amphibians; reptiles; birds; and mammals.
- Each group has common characteristics. Invertebrates can be divided into a number of groups, including insects, spiders, snails and worms.
- Plants can be divided broadly into two main groups: flowering plants; and non-flowering plants

PRIOR LEARNING

- Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.
- Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.
- Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.



LET'S THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST

- You have found a plant that you don't recognise. What could you do to try to name it? Are trees plants? How can you tell?
- What about a Venus fly trap: is it animal or a plant? What features tell you? What makes it unusual?



Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778)
Father of Classification

MICROORGANISMS

- Microorganisms are very tiny living things. They are not visible to the naked eye so a microscope is needed to see them. Microorganisms are found all around us, they can live in our bodies, in water, in the air and on the objects around us.

