

Key Knowledge

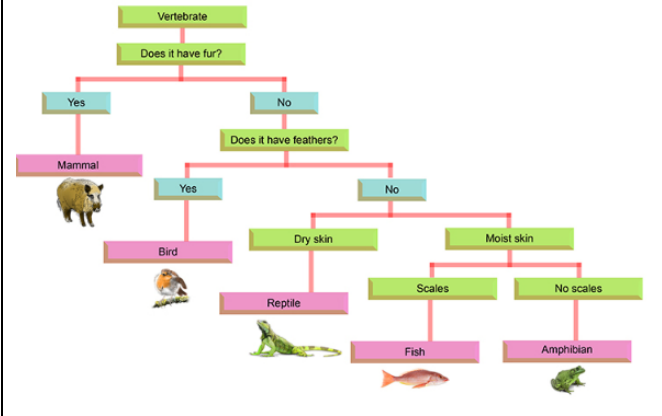
How can living things be grouped?	Living things can be grouped according to different criteria (where they live, what type of organism they are, what features they have). For example, a camel can belong in a group of vertebrates, a group of animals that live in the desert, and a group of animals that have four legs.
What is a classification key?	A key is a set of questions about the characteristics of living things. You can use a key to identify a living thing or decide which group it belongs to by answering the questions.
What is a living organism?	All living things, which can also be called organisms , have to do certain things to stay alive. These are the life processes : movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, excretion, nutrition
How can environments change?	Habitats can change throughout the year and this can have an effect on the plants and animals that live there. Humans can have positive and negative effects on the environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ positive effects: nature reserves, ecological parks ○ negative effects: litter, urban development
How do animals and plants depend on each other?	Animals and plants depend on each other to survive . For example, worms depend on plants because they feed on dead leaves, but plants depend on worms who make the soil healthy by digging holes and allowing air in. Birds also need worms because they eat them. Worms are a source of food for birds. This called a food chain . If there were no worms, there would be fewer birds as there would be more competition for food. The soil would not be as healthy without worms. All living things (or things that were once living) have a part to play in food chains . Without them, other animals and plants may not be able to survive.

Investigate

- Use **criteria** to sort living things in a Carroll diagram.
- Sort plants into groups (e.g. flowering plants and non-flowering plants) and then create a **classification key** to help others identify plants.
- Carefully observe **minibeasts** in a **microhabitat** and use a **classification key** to identify them.
- Explore examples of human impact (both positive and negative) on **environments**.

What is a classification key?

A **classification key** is a tool that is used to group living things to help us identify them.



Key Vocabulary

amphibians	Amphibians are a diverse and exciting class of animals that include frogs, toads, salamanders and newts.
biome	A natural area of vegetation and animals
depend	if you depend on something or someone, you need them in order to be able to survive.
environment	The environment is everything that is around us - living and non-living.
food chain food web	A series of living things which are linked to each other because each thing feeds on the one next to it in the series.
food producer	A food chain always starts with a producer: an organism that makes food. This is usually a green plant, because plants can make their own food by photosynthesis .
habitat	The natural environment in which an animal or plant normally lives or grows.
invertebrate	A creature that does not have a spine, for example an insect, a worm, or an octopus.
mammals	Mammals are animals that breathe air, have backbones, and grow hair at some point during their lives. They nourish their young with milk.
microhabitat	A small part of the environment that supports a habitat, such as a fallen log in a forest.
organism	An organism is a living thing. It is easy to recognise a living thing, but not so easy to define it. Animals and plants are organisms . Organisms usually have five basic needs. They need air, water, nutrients (food), energy and a place to live.
vertebrate	A creature which has a spine.
vegetation	Vegetation is the plant life of a region or the plant community.