Science - Biology

Year 6 – Living things and their habitats
Why are living things classified into groups?

Key Vocabulary

diversity	A variety of something; many different things.
subdividing	Making smaller, more specific groupings.
organism	An individual animal, plant or single-celled life form.
observable features	Features of animals and plants that can be seen.
kingdom	The largest of the classification groupings.
species	The smallest of the classification groupings.

Key Facts

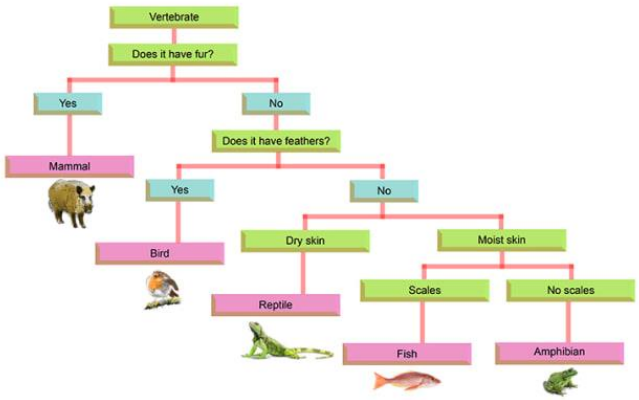
- Animals are firstly classified by vertebrates and invertebrates. They are then classified into fish, bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile. These are divided into smaller groups based on shared characteristics. Plants are classified in a similar way.
- Micro-organisms are so small they can only be seen with a microscope such as yeast and bacteria. Not all microorganisms are bad!
- A newly discovered living thing can be classified by carefully looking at the characteristics in comparison to other living things.

Key Questions

- What are the main groups used to classify animals?
- What are the main groups used to classify plants?
- What are micro-organisms?
- How are broad groupings of animals and plants subdivided into smaller groups?
- Why was Carl Linnaeus significant in the classification of animals?
- How could a newly discovered living thing be classified?

Links to other Learning

- Year 4 – Living things and their habitats
  Use classification keys to group living things in their local environment.
- Year 5 – Living things and their habitats
  Describe the differences in life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds.
- Key Stage 3 – Biology
  Interactions and interdependencies



A classification key can help classify living things into their groups.

Famous Scientist

Carl Linnaeus
1707-1778

Carl Linnaeus was a Swedish naturalist who created two scientific systems. His most-lasting achievement was the creation of the binomial classification system in which each living thing is assigned a name consisting of two Latin words.