

Key Ideas

classification	Living things can be grouped according to characteristics.
main groups	Animals and plants form two main groups. Micro-organisms and mushrooms and toadstools do not fit in these groups.
animals	Animals can be sorted into vertebrates and invertebrates.
plants	Plants can be sorted into flowering and non-flowering.

Key Questions

Can you give examples of different types of vertebrates and invertebrates?

Can you give the key characteristics of different types of vertebrates and invertebrates?

Can you compare the characteristics of different animal groups?

Can you give examples of flowering and non-flowering plants?

Can you use classification materials to identify unknown plants and animals?

Can you create a classification key and explain why an animal belongs to a particular group?

Key words

vertebrate

an animal with a backbone

Types of vertebrates

fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals

invertebrate

an animal which does not have a backbone

Types of invertebrates

insects, spiders, snails, worms

fungus
(plural fungi)

A living thing that breaks down dead matter around it, and uses it as food. Examples include mushrooms and toadstools.

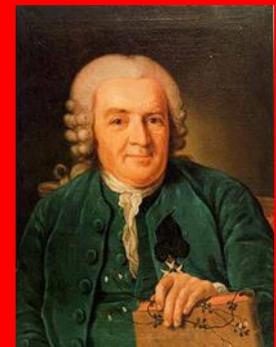
micro-organism

A small living thing, including bacteria and yeast.

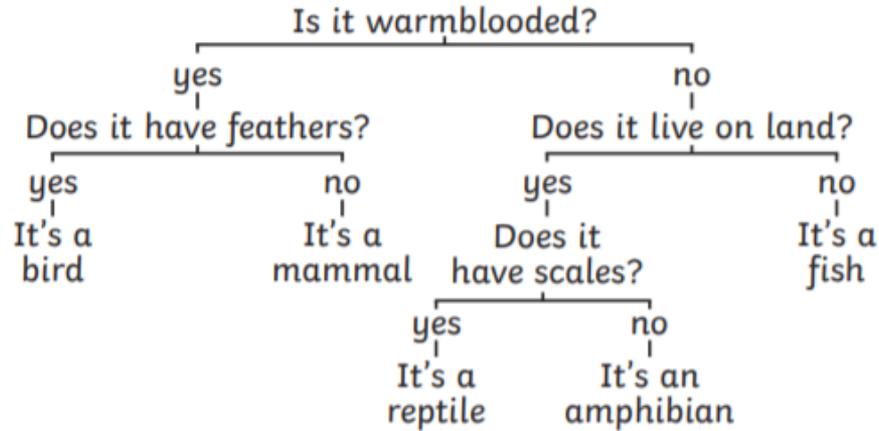
Key Figure

Carl Linnaeus developed a way of classifying living things. He published his ideas in 1735.

There are 8 levels of classification.



Scientists, called Taxonomists, sort and group living things according to their similarities and differences.



Linked skills

Present your work using Venn diagrams, Carroll diagrams and keys.

paired-statement key

Is set out as a list. You start at number one on the list and work your way through the statements until you reach the name of the living thing you are classifying.

branching key

Can be used to identify different things. The key asks questions based on features, where the answer is "yes" or "no".

identification key

A useful tool for identifying unknown living things.

survey

A scientific survey is a common method to collect data about living things.