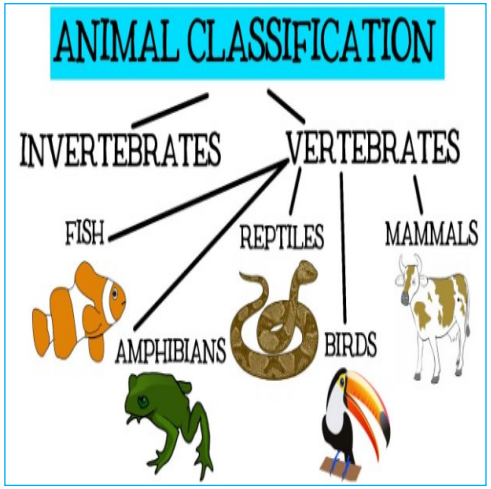
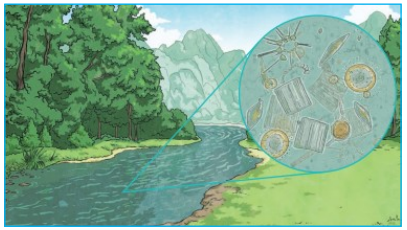
Living things and their habitats- Year 6

Previous Learning:

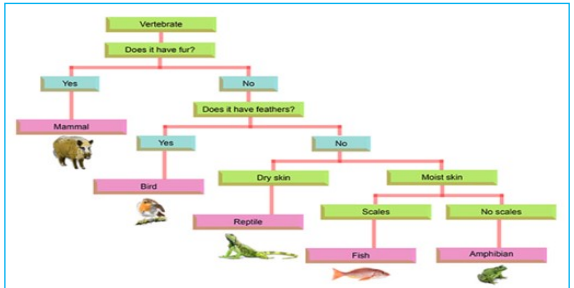
In Year 2, you identified that most living things live in habitats. In Year 4, you recognised living things can be grouped in a variety of ways and used classification keys to help group, identify and name living things. You also described the life process of reproduction in plants and animals. In Year 5, you described the differences in life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds.



Micro-organisms are very tiny living things that can only be seen using a microscope. They can be found in and on our bodies, in the air, in water and on objects around us.



Micro-organisms are viruses, bacteria, moulds and yeast. Some animals (dust mites) and plants (phytoplankton) are also microorganisms.

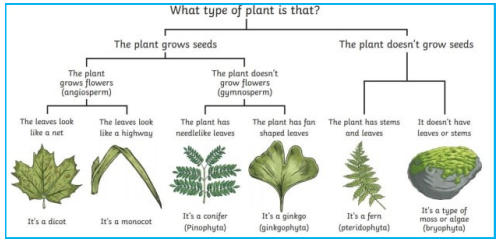


Scientists, called Taxonomists, sort and group living things according to their similarities and differences. .

Carl Linnaeus

In 1735, Swedish Scientist Carl Linnaeus first published a system for classifying all living things. An adapted version of this system is still used today: The Linnaeus System.

Classification trees allows us to show similarities and differences in plants.



Key vocabulary	Definitions
classification	Dividing things into groups based on their characteristics.
characteristics	A feature of quality belonging to something which helps identify it.
fish	A cold-blooded vertebrate that has fins and gills and lives wholly in water.
amphibians	A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives on land and in water.
reptiles	A cold-blooded vertebrate with dry scaly skin.
birds	A warm-blooded vertebrate with feathers, wings, a beak, and typically can fly.
mammals	A warm-blooded vertebrate that that has hair or fur and creates milk for its offspring.
vertebrates	An animal with a backbone.
invertebrates	An animal without a backbone.
insects	An animal with six legs, a body divided into three parts and often, has wings.
micro-organisms	A living thing that is too small to be seen without a microscope.
bacteria	A micro-organisms which can be useful or harmful.
virus	Harmful micro-organisms that cause infectious diseases.

Future learning:

In secondary school, you will look at the speed of light, the transmission of light through materials, colours and the different frequencies of light.