



Living Things and their Habitats Year 4

What I need to know

- Scientists have divided up the billions of different living things (organisms) on earth according to their similarities and differences. This is known as classifying
- Classification keys are sets of questions that can be used to put living things into different groups and allows us to learn more about what makes them unique.
- Living things live in a habitat. Habitats provide an environment which support the living thing to survive.
- These environments can change naturally (earthquakes, floods, fire) or by human impact. These impacts can be positive or negative.
- Different living things can be found in a habitat at different times of the year.

Classification of animals and plants

You can use the acronym **MRS GREN** to remember the 7 things living things have in common: **M**ovement, **R**espiration, **S**ensitivity, **G**rowth, **R**eproduction, **E**xcretion, **N**utrition.

Vertebrates (have a backbone)



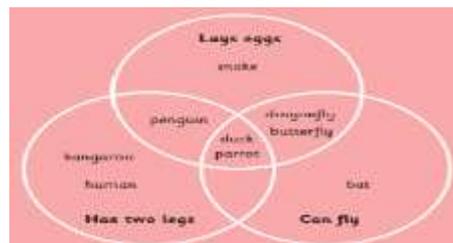
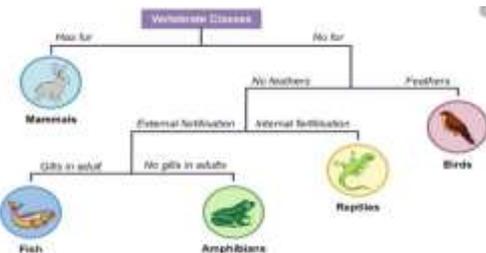
mammal fish reptile bird amphibian

Invertebrates (have no backbone)



Insects Snails Spiders

A "branched" diagram and Venn diagram are ways of sorting or classifying animals. There are examples below.



Key Vocabulary

Organism	An individual living thing, such as a plant or animal.
Classifying	Putting things into groups because of similarities.
Classification keys	A set of questions about the characteristics of living things. Answers to the questions decide which group it belongs to.
Environment	Everything us and our surroundings, including air, soil, water, plants and animals.
Habitat	The natural environment of an animal or plant.
Human impact	Things human/people do that change the environment.
Positive	An action where something good or advantageous happens.
Negative	An action where something bad or disadvantageous happens.
Hibernate	To sleep in the winter in a den or a burrow to save energy.

Changes to the environment

Environments change very often. Sometimes, these changes are expected, for example leaves falling from trees in autumn. Other changes are not expected and can have a negative impact on the organisms living there. Some changes are natural and some are because of human impact.



forest fire



air pollution



flooding



water pollution

Which of these are natural and which are because of humans? Or might they be a combination?



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