

Year 4 Science – Grouping and Classifying Living Things

What we already know

We know that animals and plants have different characteristics which they need to stay alive. We know that animals and plants live in different 'habitats' and 'micro-habitats'. We have looked at the local environment and the plants and animals that we have. We have learnt that plants are a source of food and shelter for animals. We have also compared how animals live on the seashore, in woodland, in the ocean and in the rainforest and how these habitats can affect the number and type of plants and animals that live there.

Vocabulary

Tier 1:
Bird Fish Spine

Tier 2:
Habitat Mammal Amphibian
Reptile Vertebrate Invertebrate
Food chain classification

Tier 3:
Exoskeleton
Deciduous Evergreen

1. Group Animals

Animals can be grouped into five categories:

Mammal- an animal with a spine, fur or hair on its body, and feeds its young on milk



Bird - an animal with a spine, feathers, wings and a beak.



Amphibian – an animal with a spine that can live on land and in water.



Fish – an animal with a spine, fins and gills, that lives in water.



Reptile – an animal with a spine and dry scales on its body.



2. Vertebrates, invertebrates and classification keys

I know that the animal kingdom can be divided into two groups - Vertebrates and Invertebrates.

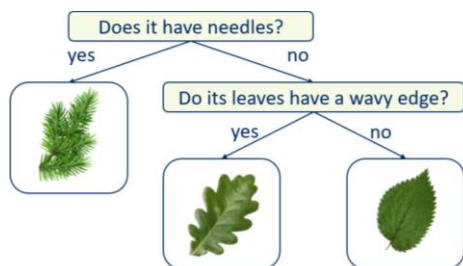
Vertebrates all have a backbone, for example all the mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and bony fish all have a backbone.

Invertebrates do not have a backbone or any other skeleton inside their body e.g. jellyfish, crabs, slugs, worms, spiders, and bees

Invertebrates may have an **exoskeleton** – a type of skeleton on the outside of an animal's body that provides support and protection

3. Group plants and classification keys

Plants can be grouped into two groups: Flowering (including grasses) and non-flowering. Grass flowers when it is left to grow and mature. All fruit and vegetable plants flower. Ferns and mosses are usually found in damp woodland in the UK, they are some of the oldest plants and were around at the same time as dinosaurs! Pine and fir trees are plants that grow in very cold climates.



4. Data collection and analysis

Looking at and collecting data for the different plants and animals seen in the local environment during the Autumn.

Knowing that deciduous trees lose their leaves every year. Evergreen trees keep their leaves all year round. In autumn, some animals gather food for colder months. Some animals eat more in autumn to increase their body fat for colder months. Use a table to collect data under headings. Use ipads to identify plants in the local area.