

Core Knowledge— Classification

Living things can be formally grouped according to characteristics.

Plants and animals are two main groups but there are other living things that do not fit into these groups e.g. micro-organisms such as bacteria and yeast, and toadstools and mushrooms.

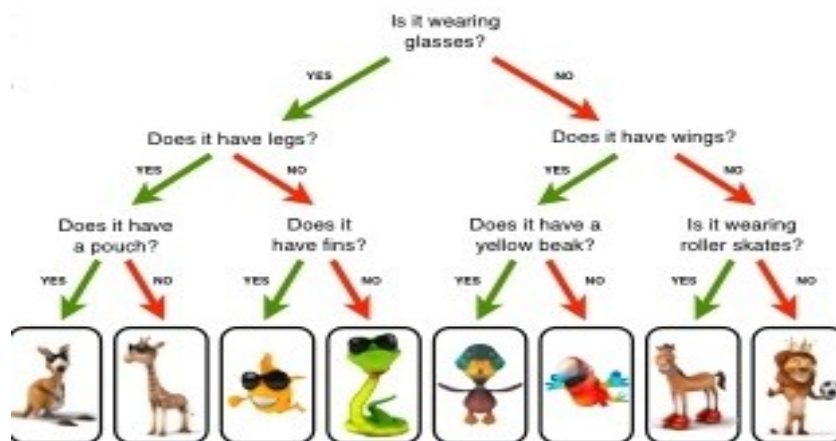
Plants can make their own food whereas animals cannot.

Animals can be divided into two main groups: those that have backbones (vertebrates); and those that do not (invertebrates).

Vertebrates can be divided into five small groups: fish; amphibians; reptiles; birds; and mammals. Each group has common characteristics.

Invertebrates can be divided into a number of groups, including insects, spiders, snails and worms. Plants can be divided broadly into two main groups: flowering plants; and non-flowering plants.

A classification key is a tool that uses yes/no questions to group living things by different characteristics.



Scientific Enquiry



Recording and presenting evidence.



Communicating their findings.

Game

[Year 6 Classification Activity - Teaching resource](#)

Key Vocabulary

Vocabulary	Definition
characteristics	The distinguishing features of any species that can be used for identification.
warm-blooded	Animals that can maintain a constant body temperature regardless of surrounding temperatures.
cold-blooded	Animals that become warmer or colder depending on surrounding temperatures.
mosses and ferns	Spore-bearing plants that grow in damp shade.
conifers	Ancient plants which are evergreen and have needle shape leaves.

Core Knowledge—The classification system



Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) was a botanist, zoologist and physician. He's most famous for simplifying the naming system that scientists use to describe the millions of species on Earth.

The Linnaean system, named after Carl Linnaeus, has different levels where the number of living things in each group gets smaller and smaller, until there will just be one type of animal in the species group.