

Animals and their habitats– Year 3/4 Science

Key Vocabulary

Organisms - This is another word that can be used to mean 'living things'.

Habitat - The specific area or place in which particular animals or plants may live.

Environment - An environment contains many habitats and these include areas where there are both living and non-living things

Endangered species - A plant or animal where there are not many of their species left and scientists are concerned that the species may become extinct.

Extinct - When a species has no more members alive on the planet, it is extinct.

Classification - This is where plants or animals are placed into groups according to their similarities.

Vertebrates - Animals with a backbone.

Invertebrates - Animals without a backbone.

Specimen - A particular plant or animal that scientists study to find out about its species.





Characteristics - The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.

Classification Keys

Classification keys usually have statements or questions that describe some of the features or characteristics. You have to answer either yes or no. Your answer will then take you to another question or statement OR the type of living thing. This one looks at amount of legs the living thing has and the placement of their eyes.

- Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.
- Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.
- Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose danger to living things.

Vertebrates can be sorted into five main groups with their own **characteristics**.

Mammals	Birds	Reptiles
warm-blooded give birth to live young produce milk have hair or fur 	warm-blooded lay eggs have feathers have wings and a beak 	cold-blooded lay eggs have scales 
Amphibians		Fish
cold-blooded lay spawn often undergo metamorphosis 		cold-blooded have scales lay spawn live in water 