



What should I already know?

- 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 dangers to living things.
- Use and make identification keys for plants and animals.

Skills

- Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals.
- Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.
 - Living things can be grouped into micro-organisms, plants and animals.
 - Vertebrates can be grouped as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.
 - Invertebrates can be grouped as snails and slugs, worms, spiders and insects.
 - Plants can be grouped as flowering plants (incl. trees and grasses) and non-flowering plants (such as ferns and mosses).

Year 6– Autumn Term – Living Things and Their Habitats
Intention: In Science, I will learn...

Knowledge

- 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.
- Living things can be classified by these eight levels. The number of living things in each level gets smaller until the one animal is left in its species level.
- Scientists, called Taxonomists, sort and group living things according to their similarities and differences.
- Each group allows scientists to observe and understand the characteristics of living things more clearly. They group similar things together then split the groups again and again based on their differences.
- Microorganisms are viruses, bacteria, moulds and yeast. Some animals (dust mites) and plants (phytoplankton) are also microorganisms.
- Microorganisms 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.

Vocabulary

Characteristics	Special qualities or appearances that make an individual or group of things different to others.
Classify	To sort things into different groups
Taxonomist	A scientist who classifies different living things into categories.
Key	A key is a series of questions about the characteristics of living things. A key is used to identify a living thing or decide which group it belongs to by answering 'yes' or 'no' questions.
Bacteria	A single-celled microorganism.
Microorganism	An organism that can only be seen using a microscope, e.g. bacteria, mould and yeast.
Microscope	A piece of equipment that is used to view very tiny (microscopic) things by magnifying their appearance.
Species	A group of animals that can reproduce to produce fertile offspring.

