

Living things and Their Habitats Knowledge Organiser

Animal Classification

Vertebrates- Animals with a backbone

There are 5 ways vertebrates can be grouped:

- Fish
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Mammals

Features of fish

- Breathes with gills
- Lays eggs in water
- Has fins and scales
- Its body temperature changes

Features of an amphibian

- Born with gills then develops lungs
- Lays eggs in water
- Damp skin
- Its body changes temperature

Features of a reptile

- Breathes with lungs
- Lays eggs on land
- Dry scaly skin
- Body temperature changes

Features of birds

- Breathes with lungs
- Lays eggs with hard shells
- Has feathers
- Steady body temperature

Features of Mammals

- Breathes with lungs
- Babies are born live
- Body hair or fur
- Steady body temperature
- Feeds babies milk

Invertebrates- Animals without a backbone

There are 3 ways invertebrates can be grouped:

- Insects
- Arachnids
- Molluscs

Features of insects

- 3 body sections
- 6 legs

Features of arachnids

- 2 body sections
- 8 legs

Features of molluscs

- Slimy foot
- Often have a shell

Features to distinguish between animals

- Invertebrate or vertebrate
- Mammal/reptile/fish/amphibian/bird
- Colour
- Number of legs
- Number of body segments
- Distinguishing features
- Habitat

Features to distinguish between plants

- Flowering or non-flowering
- Grass/ cereal/ garden shrub/ deciduous/ algae/ conifer/ fern
- Colour
- Height
- Number of flowers
- Fruit bearing or not
- Distinguishing features
- Usual location

Carl Linnaeus

- Born in Sweden on 23rd May 1707
- Famous for developing a system for classifying animals and plants.
- The groups he developed are still used today- kingdoms, classes, orders, genera and species
- Became known as 'The father of Modern Taxonomy'



Key Vocabulary

Classification	Grouping something using its features
Taxonomy	The part of science focused on classification
Distinguish	Recognise a difference
Amphibian	A cold-blooded vertebrate animals
Crustaceans	Mostly live in the water with a hard shell and several pairs of legs
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism
Invertebrate	An animal without a backbone
Mammal	A warm-blooded vertebrate animal, distinguishable by hair or fur
Vertebrate	An animal with a backbone
Micro organism	A microscopic organism, especially a bacterium, virus, or fungus
Arachnid	A group of small animals, similar to insects but with four pairs of legs, that include spiders, scorpions, ticks and mites
Molluscs	An animal that has a soft body, no spine, and is often covered with a shell
Species	A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding.
Genus	Denoted by a capitalized Latin name, e.g. <i>Leo</i> .
Kingdom	The two main kingdoms we think about are plants and animals. Scientists also list four other kingdoms including bacteria, archaeobacterial, fungi, and protozoa.