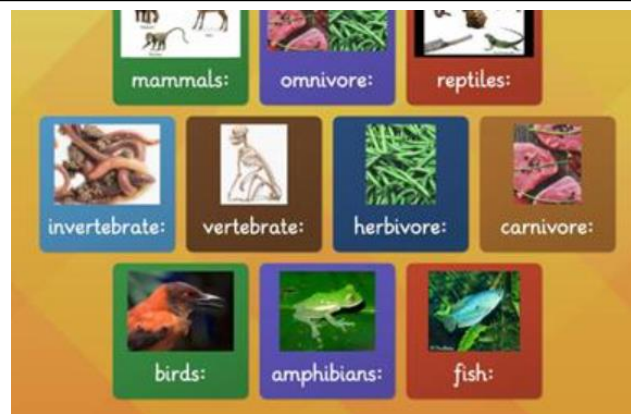


Science Knowledge Organiser – Living Things and Their Habitats

Key Enquiry Question: How can we classify animals and living things?

National Curriculum

- Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals
- Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics



Key Vocabulary	Meaning
Characteristics	Special qualities or appearances that make an individual or group of things different to others.
Classify	To sort things into different groups.
Taxonomists	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.

Sticky Knowledge

- Scientists, called Taxonomists, sort and group living things according to their similarities and differences.
- 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 eight levels. The number of living things in each level gets smaller until the one animal is left in its species level.
- 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.