Year 4 – Term 1
Group and Classify Living Things

How can living things be grouped and what characteristics are used to classify them?	How can we identify and classify animals and plants using their features?
How can classification keys help us identify living things?	Why do scientists' group and classify living things?

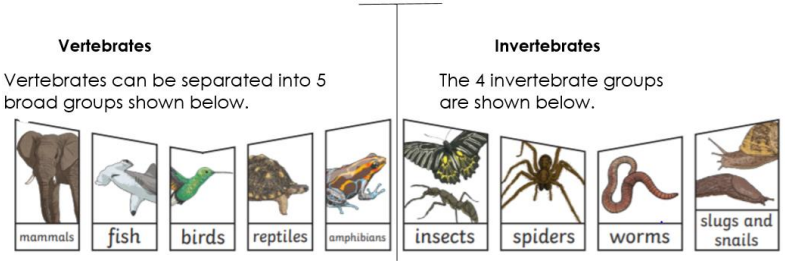
Vocabulary	Definition
Classification	The process of grouping living things based on their similarities and differences.
Characteristic	A feature of a living thing that can be used to identify or group it.
Classification key	A tool that uses questions about characteristics to identify and group living things.
Vertebrate	An animal that has a backbone.
Invertebrate	An animal that does not have a backbone.
Species	A group of living things with similar characteristics that can reproduce.

How can living things be grouped and what characteristics are used to classify them?

Living things can be grouped by their characteristics. Characteristics are features that help us to identify living things.

Animals can be grouped into…

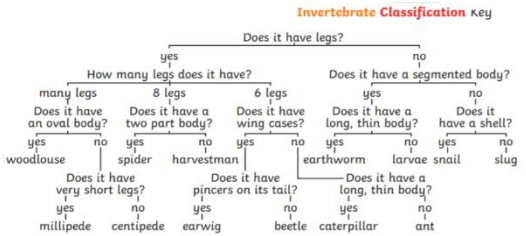
Vertebrates (animals with a backbone) and Invertebrates (animals without a backbone.



How can classification keys help us to identify living things?

Classification keys help us identify living things by asking questions about their features.

You can use classification to help group, identify and name a variety of living things.



How can we identify and classify animals and plants based on their features?

Why do scientists' group and classify living things?

Scientists classify living things to:

Identify – Find out what living things are.

Compare – Spot similarities and differences.

Understand – Learn about living things and their relationships.

Protect – Help conserve species and habitats.

Classification helps scientists organise and study the millions of living things on Earth.

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