

What I should know already...

This topic extends the children's use of sorting and classifying skills they used in year 3.

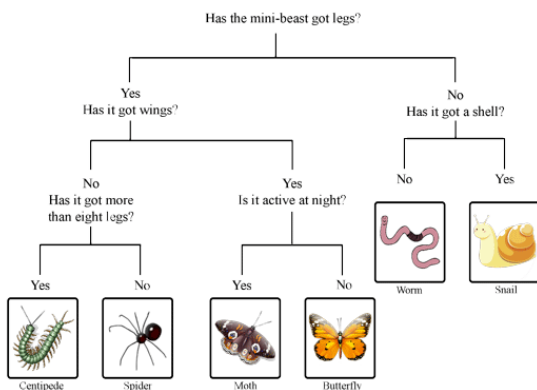
Key Skills

Understand the 4 main groups that living things can be categorised into.

Identify animals making detailed observations and learn to identify main characteristics of the main vertebrate and common invertebrate groups.

Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.

Diagram



Key Vocabulary

Key	A common way to structure identification charts. It uses questions with a yes/no answers that split the group into subgroups.
Classification	A way of grouping items based on common characteristics.
Vertebrates	Animals with a backbone as part of an internal skeleton.
Invertebrates	Animals which do not have an internal skeleton.
Amphibians	An animal that can live on land and in water. It needs water to complete its life cycle.
Fish	Aquatic animals who are unable to live out of water and breathe using gills.
Exoskeleton	An exoskeleton is a hard covering that supports and protects the bodies of some types of animals. The word exoskeleton means "outside skeleton".
Insect	Creatures which have 6 legs and usually 2 pairs of wings. They have a body divided into 3 parts.
Arachnids	Creatures which have 8 legs, no wings, and no antennae. They usually have a body made of 2 parts.

Crustaceans	Crustaceans are animals that usually have a hard covering, or exoskeleton, and two pairs of antennae, or feelers.
Myriapods	The Myriapods are centipedes and millipede s , and some small relatives. ... Like insects, myriapods have one pair of antennae, but they have many more legs than insects do.
Molluscs	These are soft bodied animals with no body segments, wings or legs. Most molluscs have shells.

Misconceptions

Insects and other invertebrates are not animals.

Aquatic mammals such as whales and dolphins are fish.

Bats are birds.

'Insect' is a general term for all 'mini-beasts' or 'creepy crawlies'.



Animals

made up of many cells without a cell wall, and eat ready-made food



Plants

made up of many cells with a cell wall, and build up their own food by photosynthesis



Fungi

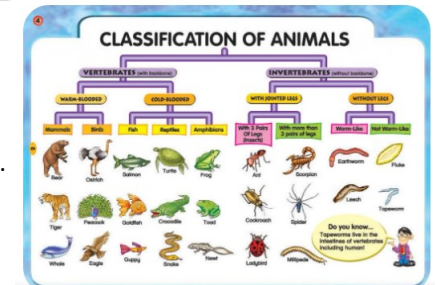
mostly made up of many cells with a cell wall, never photosynthesise and feed on ready-made food



Small Microbes

made up of only one cell (unicellular), very diverse and can feed in various ways

Living things can be grouped into 4 categories.



Each category can then be broken down further with questions in a classification key.

Key questions

Why do we use classification keys?

In what ways can we classify living things?

Can you use a classification key to identify an invertebrate?

Recommended reading

