



Topic: Living Things

Year: 6

Strand: Classification

Significant scientists

Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778)



Carl Linnaeus was a Swedish scientist who developed the modern system of classifying and naming organisms. Before this the names of living things were often very long. He gave them a two-part name.

Chris Nelson



Chris Nelson is a horticulturist and a director of Growing Underground which uses hydroponic techniques to grow pesticide-free crops in a former London underground air-raid shelter.

Retrieval Questions

- 1) What is classification?
- 2) What is identification?
- 3) Name three kingdoms of living things.
- 4) Name three classes of plants.
- 5) Name five classes of animal.
- 6) Who was Aristotle?
- 7) Who was Carl Linnaeus?
- 8) How was Linnaeus's system of classification better than Aristotle's?
- 9) What is Linnaeus best known for?
- 10) What is the difference between a vertebrate and an invertebrate?

Classification

Living things can be classified into broad groups according to observable characteristics that are similar or different.

Key Vocabulary

Classification	The arrangement of living things into groups according to observed similarities
Characteristic	A distinguishing feature of a living thing that helps with identification
Micro-organism	A living thing that can only be seen through a microscope
Plant	A living thing that absorbs water through its roots and makes its own food by photosynthesis
Animal	A living things that feeds and has sense organs
Vertebrates	A group of animals with a backbone
Invertebrate	A group of animals without a backbone
Fish	A cold blooded animal that lives in water
Amphibian	A cold blooded animal that can live on land or in water
Reptile	An air breathing , cold blooded vertebrate with scales that lays eggs
Bird	A warm blooded, feathered, winged vertebrate that lays eggs
Mammal	A warm blooded vertebrate that nourishes its young with milk and is covered in body hair
Bacteria	A microscopic, single celled living organism
Fungi	An organism that gets its food from decaying material (rather than making its own food)
Virus	Not considered a living thing; a microscopic agent that can only exist within a host cell and is unable to reproduce by itself

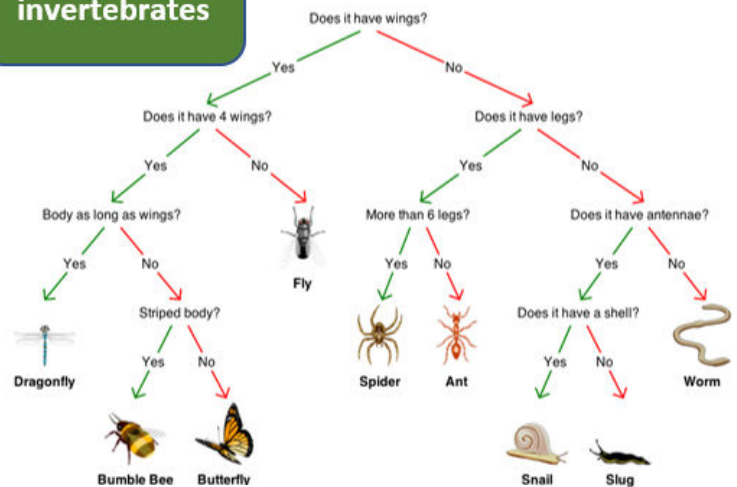
Micro-organisms

These are tiny living creatures. Most can only be seen through a microscope. They can be sub-divided into smaller groups including bacteria, fungi and viruses.

Classifying vertebrates



Classifying invertebrates



Flowering plants – numerous and diverse group. Reproduce through flowers and seeds. E.g. sunflower

Non-flowering plants – smaller group. They have a simple structure and do not have flowers or seeds. They reproduce through spores. E.g. algae, mosses

