Year 6 – Living Things - Classification

What should I already know?

- All living things can be grouped in different ways based on their features, appearance and habitats.
- Living things can be divided into vertebrates (back bone) and invertebrates (no backbone)
- Vertebrates can be grouped into birds, fish, mammals, reptiles and amphibians based on their characteristics, such as being warm or cold blooded
- Classification keys help us to sort living things

Key Vocabulary

	The process of sorting different animals and plants into groups
Vertebrates	Living organism that has a backbone
Invertebrates	Living organism that doesn't have a backbone
Organism	A living thing
Micro-organism	A living thing that can only be seen using a microscope
Classification Key	a set of questions used to identify and group living things.
Characteristic	A trait or feature unique to a living thing



Modern Classification

Carl Linnaeus designed a system which allows us to categorise all living things based on their characteristics. Each species has its own unique Latin name.

Vertebrate Groups

Mammal	Bird	Reptile	Amphibian	Fish
				
warm-blooded fur or hair give birth to live young produce milk	warm-blooded feathers lay eggs beak and wings	cold-blooded scales or scutes usually lay eggs	cold-blooded moist or slimy skin often undergo metamorphosis	cold-blooded live in water scales and fins gills

Some Invertebrate Groups

Arthropod	Annelid	Mollusc	Echinoderm
			
segmented legs include insects, crustaceans and arachnids	segmented bodies no legs include earthworms and leeches	segmented bodies no legs include slugs and octopuses	live in salt water tube feet include sea stars and sea urchins

Classification Keys

