

## Key Learning

Changes to an environment can be natural or caused by humans. Changes to an environment can have positive as well as negative effects. Here are some examples of things that can change an environment.

### NATURAL

- earthquakes
- storms
- floods / droughts
- wildfires
- the seasons

### HUMAN-MADE

- deforestation
- pollution
- urbanisation
- the introduction of new animal or plant species to an environment
- creating new nature reserves

Plants and animals rely on the environment to give them everything they need. Therefore, when habitats change, it can be very dangerous to the plants and animals that live there.

## Life Processes



To stay alive and healthy, all living things need certain conditions that let them carry out key life processes.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Organisms</b>	This is another word that can be used to mean 'living things'.
<b>Life processes</b>	The things living things do to stay alive.
<b>Classification</b>	This is where plants or animals are placed into groups according to their similarities.
<b>Specimen</b>	A particular plant or animal that scientists study to find out about its species.
<b>Vertebrates</b>	Animals with a backbone.
<b>Invertebrates</b>	Animals without a backbone.
<b>Reproduction</b>	The process through which young are produced.
<b>Endangered species</b>	A plant or animal where there are not many of their species left and scientists are concerned that the species may become extinct.
<b>Extinct</b>	When a species has no more members alive on the planet, it is extinct.
<b>Habitat</b>	The specific area or place in which particular animals or plants may live.
<b>Environment</b>	An environment contains many habitats and these include areas where there are both living and non-living things.
<b>Nutrition</b>	The process of obtaining food to provide living things with energy to live and stay healthy.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	The way living things react to changes in their environment.
<b>Keys</b>	A set of questions about the characteristics of a living thing.

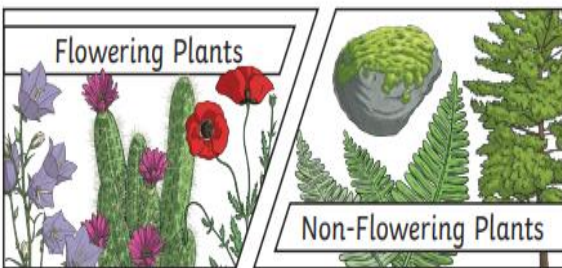
What are 'classification keys'?

Classification keys allow you to ask a series of questions about a living organism to help you identify it.

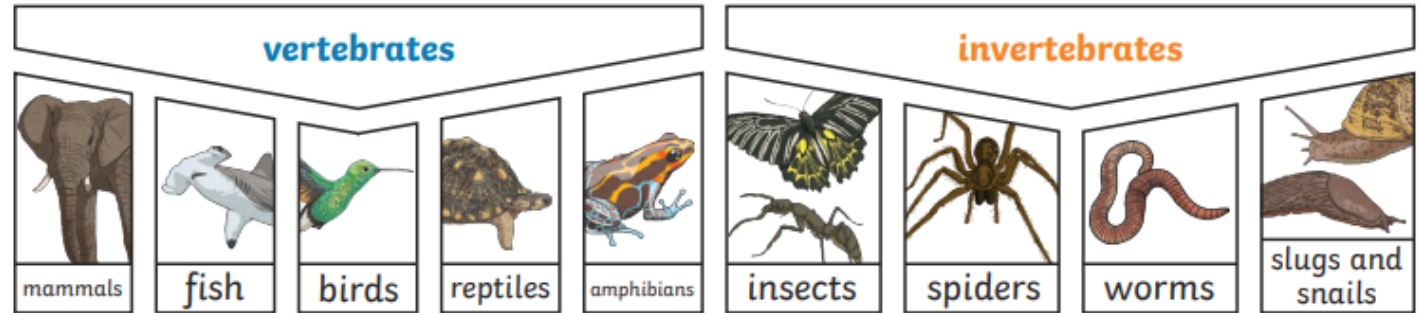
Always start with the first question.

The answer to each question should always be 'yes' or 'no'.

Plants can be sorted into many different groups. For example:



Animals can be grouped in lots of different ways based upon their **characteristics**.



**Vertebrates** can be separated into five broad groups.

You can use **classification** keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things. Here is an example of a **classification** key:

You could sort **invertebrates** you might see around school in different ways, such as in this example. The vast majority of living things on the planet are **invertebrates**.

**Invertebrate Classification Key**

