Science: Classification

Key vocabulary

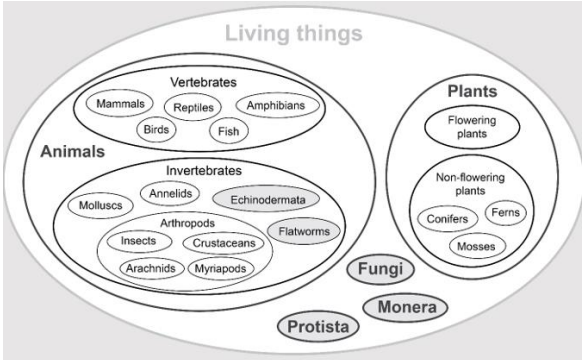
characteristic, feature, internal, observable, segment, branching key, annelid, arachnid, cold-blooded, crustacean, flowering plant, mollusc, myriapod, non-flowering plant, organism, warm-blooded, classify, identify, research, amphibian, bird, deciduous, evergreen, exoskeleton, fish, flower, insect, invertebrate, mammal, reptile, skeleton, vertebrate

Working Scientifically

- Recording findings using simple scientific language, [drawings, labelled diagrams,] keys, [bar charts, and tables].
- Identifying differences, similarities [or changes] related to simple scientific ideas and processes.

Diagram 1:.

How Animals Are Grouped by Their Features



Must – know knowledge

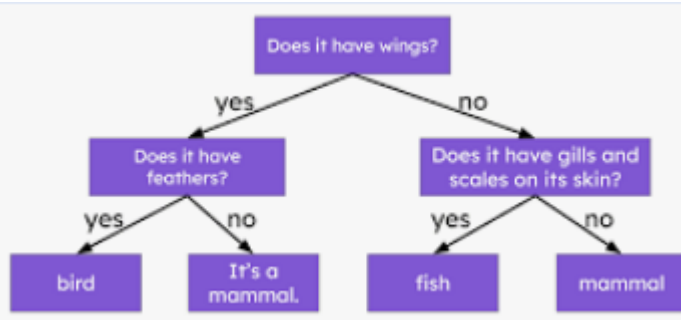
Classification is how scientists organise living things into groups based on their features. This helps us understand the many different animals and plants around us. Living things are first divided into two big groups: animals and plants. Animals are then split into two smaller groups called vertebrates and invertebrates.

Vertebrates are animals that have a backbone. Examples of vertebrates are mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Each group has its own special features. For example, mammals have hair or fur and feed their babies milk. Birds have feathers and lay eggs. Fish live in water and have gills to breathe.

Invertebrates are animals that do not have a backbone. They include insects, spiders, worms, and jellyfish. Invertebrates can be very different from each other, but they all share the fact that they don't have bones inside their bodies. Plants are also grouped by scientists. Some plants have flowers and produce seeds, while others do not have flowers. Grouping living things makes it easier for scientists to study how animals and plants live and grow. It also helps us understand how they are connected to each other and to their environment.

Diagram 2:

Classification key



Experiments:

Can you use a branching key?