Classifying Living Things

winkl



Sorting

Talk About It

Imagine you had to sort these things into two groups. How would you decide on the groups? What would you call each group?

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Sorting

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There are lots of ways the objects could be grouped:

- plastic and non-plastic
- green things and red things
- living things and non-living things
- edible things and non-edible things
- animals and non-animals

Sorting

Grouping the things would be useful if:

• you wanted something to eat;

Talk

About

It

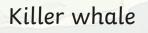
• you needed to work out what things needed to be cared for.

Living things can be grouped. We call this classifying and each group is called a class. Classifying living things is called taxonomy and people who do this classifying are called taxonomists.

Why would putting the things into groups be useful?

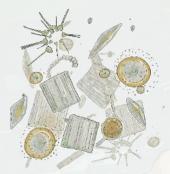
Classifying

Look at these living things. How could we classify them?



flower

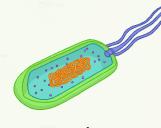
lion



phytoplankton

Murde





virus

(min)

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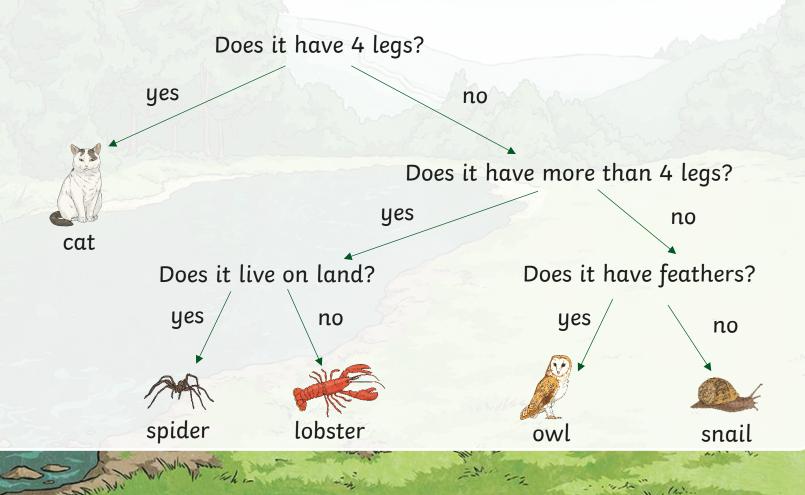
Classifying Animals

Animals can be classified into the following groups:

- Mammals whales, cows and humans are mammals;
- Amphibians toads and frogs are amphibians;
- **Reptiles** snakes, lizards and crocodiles are reptiles;
- Fish salmon, tuna and clownfish are fish;
- **Birds** owls, eagles and finches are birds;
- Insects caterpillars, beetles and ants are insects;
- Crustaceans crabs and lobsters are crustaceans;
- Arthropods many insects and crustaceans are arthropods;
- Molluscs octopus, squid and slugs are molluscs;
- Arachnids spiders are arachnids;
- Annelids earthworms and leeches are annelids.

How Can We Classify Living Things?

Living things can be classified using a classification key like this one.



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Carl Linnaeus

In 1735, a scientist named Carl Linnaeus published 'Systema Naturae', which explained a way to classify living things.

Linnaeus put all living things into three groups called kingdoms; plants, animals and minerals. Each kingdom was then split into smaller levels. Scientists still use this system today. More species have been discovered since Linnaeus' lifetime so extra categories have been added. The system now looks like this:

Domain Kingdom Phylum Class Order Family Genus Species

Each level gets smaller until there is only one living thing in the species section.

The Linnaean System

Below is how a cat is classified using the Linnaean system.

Domain:	Eukarya	
Kingdom:	Animalia	m
Phylum:	Chordata	0
Class:	Mammalia	
Order:	Carnivora	J.
Family:	Felidae	
Genus:	Felis	1. Se
Species:	Sivestris	20

