

Living Things and their Habitats

Year 4 - Science

Vocabulary Dozen

Organism - An individual living thing, such as a plant, an animal, or a bacteria.

Classifying - To put into groups according to things that are similar.

Unique - Being the only one of its type.

Vertebrate - Having a backbone.

Invertebrate - Without a backbone.

Mammal - Any animal that has hair and feeds its babies with milk from the mother.

Habitat - The natural environment of an animal or plant.

Ecosystem - A community of living things, together with their environment.

Food chain - A series of living beings in which each serves as food for the next.

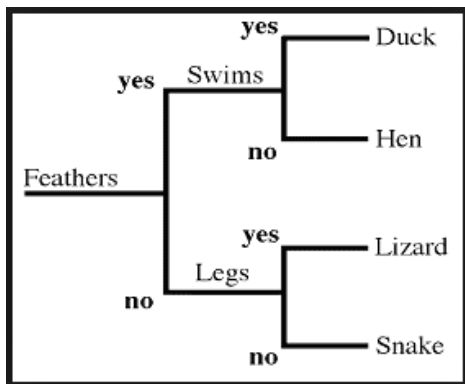
Energy - The ability to have force or power or to do work.

Producer - A living thing that makes its own food.

Consumer - A living thing that cannot make its own food and so received its energy through consuming (eating) other plants or animals.

Classifying Plants and Animals

Animals can be sorted, or classified, in a number of different ways. A 'branched' diagram or a venn diagram, like those shown below, are just two examples.



Branched Diagram



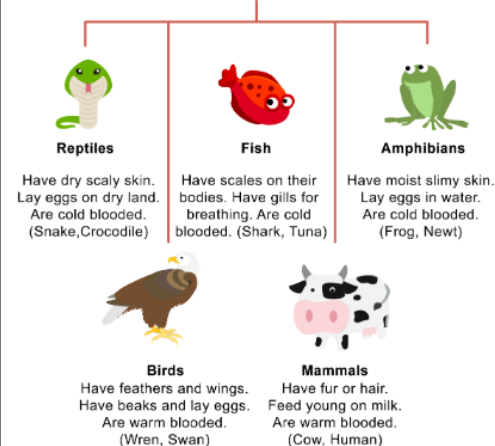
Venn Diagram

Core Learning

- The billions of different kinds of living things (**organisms**) on earth have been divided up, by scientists, into groups according to their similarities and differences. This is known as **classifying**.
- Classifying living things into groups allows scientists to learn more about what makes each species **unique**.
- There are many different classes of animal. Those with backbones are known as the 'class' **vertebrates**. These are then grouped into mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.
- Invertebrates**, animals without backbones, are arachnids, insects, snails and slugs and worms.
- Humans fall into the **mammal** class as they have hair on their bodies and drink milk when they are babies. Whales, dolphins, bats, cats, dogs and hedgehogs are also mammals.
- A **habitat** is the non living environment surrounding a living thing. It provides space, shelter, food and water.
- An **ecosystem** is made up of the living organism and the non living habitat. An ecosystem can be any size from a tree to the whole world.
- Food chains** are a map of the flow of **energy** from a plant (primary **producer**) through **consumers**, (primary consumers) and hunters (secondary consumers).

Classification of Animals Vertebrates

These are animals that have a backbone



Classification of Animals Invertebrates

These are animals that do not have a backbone

