Year 4	Autumn 1 2019	Topic: Living things and their habitats	Strand of science: Biology

What should I already know?

- How to identify a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals
- Names of common wild, garden and flowering plants
- Examples of plants and animals' habitats and microhabitats
- What living things need to survive
- How food chains and food webs work
- How living things have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement

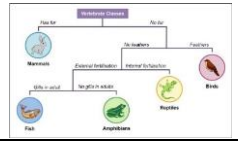
What will I know by the end of the topic?

How can living things be grouped?

Living things can be grouped according to different **characteristics** and criteria- where they live, what type of **organism** they are, what features they have. For example, a camel can belong in a group of vertebrates, a group of animals that live in the desert, and a group of animals that have four legs.

What is a classification key?

Living things can be grouped (**classified**) in different ways according to their **features**. A **classification key** is a tool which is used to group and identify living things in their local **habitat** and beyond.

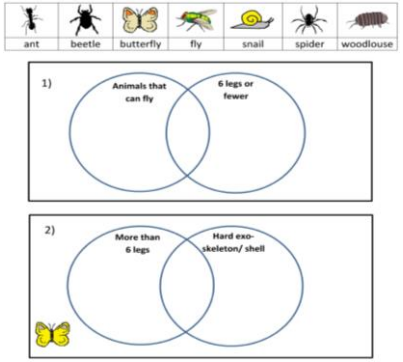


How can environments change?

Living things live in a **habitat** which provides an **environment** to which they are **suited**. These environments may change naturally e.g. through flooding, fire, earthquakes. Humans also cause the environment to change. This can be in a good way i.e. **positive human impact**, such as setting up nature reserves or in a bad way i.e**. negative human impact**, such as littering. These environments also change with the seasons; different living things can be found in a habitat at different times of the year. **Manmade and natural changes** to the environment can have a significant impact on the plants and animals that live there.

What working scientifically skills will I use?

- Classifying and sorting living things into groups using Venn diagrams and Caroll diagrams
- Creating and using a classification key
- Researching the human impact on the environment
- Identifying dangers to wildlife in the local and wider environment
- Explain in detail how environmental changes have affected endangered species



Vocabulary	
Carnivore	An animal that eats meat
Characteristic	A feature or quality belonging to a person, place or thing used to identify them
Classification key	A system which divides things into groups or types
Conservation	Preserving and protecting the natural environment
Environment	All the circumstances, people, things, and events around them that influence their life
Food chain	Series of living things which are linked to each other because each thing feeds on the one next to it in the series
Habitat	The natural environment in which an animal or plant normally lives or grows
Herbivore	An animal that only eats plants
Invertebrate	A creature that does not have a spine, for example an insect, a worm, or an octopus
Life processes	There are seven processes that tell us that living things are alive
Microhabitat	Small part of the environment that supports a habitat, such as a fallen log in a forest
Omnivore	A person or animal eats all kinds of food, including both meat and plants
Organism	A living thing
Predator	Animal that preys on another
Prey	Animal that is hunted or killed by another for food
Vegetation	Plants, trees and flowers
Vertebrate	A creature that has a spine

Books linked to the topic
The Variety of Life. *Nicola Davies & Lorna Scobie*
Disappearing Acts: A Search-and-Find Book of Endangered Animals. *Isabella Bunnell*
A Collection of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories. *Rudyard Kipling & Various Illustrators*
Animal Architects: Amazing Animals Who Build Their Homes. *Julio Antonio Blasco & Daniel Nassar*