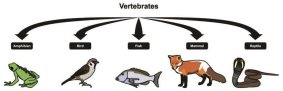
Year 6 - Science - Unit 1 - Living Things and their Habitats

Knowledge you already have

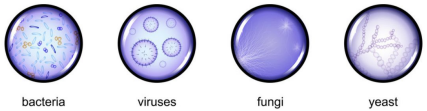
In year 4:
- I recognised that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.
- I explored and used classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in my local and wider environment.

In year 5:
- I described the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- I described the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.



New Knowledge

During this unit:
- I will describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals.
- I will give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.



Future Knowledge

Later in year 6:
- I will learn to recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
- I will learn to identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

In KS3, I will learn the differences between species.

Scientific Enquiry

Researching using secondary resources:
- I will use secondary sources to learn about the formal classification system devised by Carl Linnaeus and why it is important.
- I will use secondary sources to research the characteristics of animals that belong to a group.

Researching using secondary resources & identifying and classifying:
- I will use information about the characteristics of an unknown animal or plant to assign it to a group.

Key Ideas and Vocabulary

Living things can be grouped according to characteristics. Plants and animals are two main groups but there are other livings things such as microorganisms: bacteria and yeast; and toadstools and mushrooms. Plants can make their own food whereas animals cannot.
Animals can be divided into two main groups: those with backbones (vertebrates); and those without (invertebrates). Vertebrates can be divided into five small groups: fish; amphibians; reptiles; birds; and mammals. Each group has common characteristics. Invertebrates can be divided into a number of groups, including insects, spiders, snails and worms.
Plants can generally be divided into two main groups: flowering plants and non-flowering plants.

amphibian 	Vertebrates with lungs that lay eggs; when adult, can live both in water and on land.
insect 	Invertebrates; bodies in 3 sections with a hard outer casing, 6 legs and 2 sets of wings.
invertebrate 	Animals without a backbone; some have soft bodies, some have a hard outer casing.
mammal 	A warm-blooded vertebrate with hair or fur; gives birth to live young.
reptile 	Vertebrate with dry, scaly skin that lays soft-shelled eggs on land.
vertebrate 	Animals with a backbone.