Living things and their habitats

Significant Scientist

Gerald Durrell

Gerald Durrell (1925 – 1995) was a conservationist who worked hard to save Madagascar's unique plants and animals.

Carl Linnaeus

Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) was a botanist, zoologist and physician. Hes most famous for simplifying the naming system scientists use to describe the millions of species on Earth.

Key Knowledge

All living things, which can also be called organisms, have to do certain things to stay alive. These are called the life processes.

Living things can be grouped according to different criteria — where they live, what type of organism they are, what features they have. E.g., a camel can belong in a group of vertebrates, a group of animals that live in the desert.

We can also use classification keys (a series of questions with yes/no answers) to help us work out what an animal might be. We look at the observable features of the living creature and its habitat to help answer these questions.

Animals can be classified in the following ways:
- mammals/birds/fish/amphibians/reptiles
- herbivore/carnivore/omnivore
- vertebrate/invertebrate

Working Scientifically Skills

Identifying and classifying.

Gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions.

Oral and written explanations.

Key Vocabulary

vertebrates	Animals with a backbone
invertebrates	Animals without a backbone
classification	Dividing living things into groups
classification key	A set of questions that helps us to group things

Enquiry Skills

Research

Pattern seeking

Observing closely

cat

cat skeleton and backbone

snake

snake skeleton and backbone

Turtle

Turtle skeleton and backbone

bat

bat skeleton and backbone

prawn

jellyfish

snail

sea urchin

earthworm

spider

cockroach

squid

fly

starfish

Classifying Animals

ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION

MRS GREN

Grange Park Primary School