

Living things and their habitats

Classification of living things and the work of Carl Linnaeus

*Year 6
Age 10-11*



For parents

Thank you for supporting your child's learning in science.

Before the session:

- Please read slide 2 so you know what your child is learning and what you need to get ready.
- As an alternative to lined paper, slide 5 may be printed for your child to record on.

During the session:

- Share the learning intentions on slide 2.
- Support your child with the main activities on slides 3, 4 & 5, as needed.
- Slide 6 is a further, optional activity.
- Slide 7 has a glossary of key terms.

Reviewing with your child:

- Slide 8 gives an idea of what your child may produce.



Living things and their habitats

Classification of living things and the work of Carl Linnaeus

Key Learning

- Living things can be grouped according to **characteristics**.
- The two main groups are **animals** and **plants**.
- Other living things include **fungi** and **micro-organisms** (such as **mushrooms**, **yeast** and **bacteria**).
- Carl Linnaeus devised a formal **classification** system for all living things, which is still used today.

I can...

- Group examples of animals, plants and fungi/micro-organisms.

Activities (pages 2-5): 30 - 40 mins

- Use lined paper, a ruler and a pencil.
- Alternatively, print page 5 as a worksheet.



Find out more... (page 6): 20 – 30 mins

- Discussion and research.





Explore, review, think, talk....

*What do you already know about grouping or classifying living things?
(5-10 minutes)*

- Talk or think about five different animals you already know.
- What makes an animal an animal?



- An **animal** is a living thing which can obtain and digest food.
- Most animals are able to move around to find their food.

- Plants come in many shapes and sizes.
- What makes plants different from animals?

Watch this short BBC clip about plants

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z2k4d2p>



- Plants make their own food in their leaves using air, sunlight and water.



Watch, read, listen...

*Living things can be grouped into animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms
(5-10 minutes)*

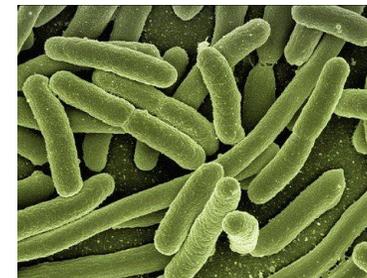


- Watch this clip about Carl Linnaeus.
- He was an eighteenth century scientist interested in organising plants and animals into groups. He wasn't successful first time!

<https://www.tigtagworld.co.uk/film/carl-linnaeus-PRM00688/>

- How did Linnaeus simplify the names of plants and animals?

- Linnaeus realised living things can be grouped according to **characteristics**.
- He gave each living thing a two-part Latin name.
- The two main groups of living things are **animals** and **plants**.
- Other living things include **fungi** and **micro-organisms**, such as mushrooms, yeast and bacteria.





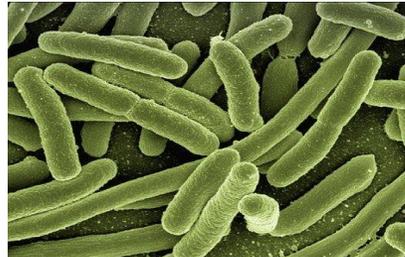
Find out more...about micro-organisms and fungi

Optional activity
(20 – 30 minutes)

BBC bitesize on micro-organisms:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfxxsbk/articles/zsgtrwx>

- Viruses are similar to bacteria, but are not classified as 'living things' because they need a host organism to survive.
- Bacteria can be helpful or harmful.
- Viruses are usually harmful and can cause diseases, like Coronavirus Covid-19.



- Fungi are different to plants, even though many are found in soil.
- Find out more about how fungi grow and reproduce.
- <https://www.kew.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/What-are-fungi-infographic-KS2.pdf>
- BBC clips on fungi:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZ5Me4NXXE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puDkLFCZyl>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33-3UCTRZWM>
- You may like to make a short fact file.

Glossary of terms

Animal: An **animal** is a living thing which can obtain and digest food. Examples include fish, birds, insects, spiders and humans.

Characteristic: **Characteristics** are features of living things which help scientists **classify** them.

Classification: **Classification** is the method scientists use to group living things.

Fungus: A **fungus** (plural **fungi**) is a living thing which breaks down dead matter around it, and uses it as food. Examples include mushrooms and toadstools.

Micro-organism: **Micro-organisms** are small living things, including bacteria and yeast.

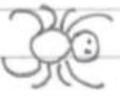
Plant: A **plant** is a living thing which can make its own food. Examples include trees, ferns, mosses and flowering plants.

Virus: A **virus** is sometimes called a micro-organism but it is not classified as a 'living thing' because it needs a host organism to survive.

Possible learning outcome for reviewing your work.

I can group examples of animals, plants and fungi / micro-organisms.

Classifying living things by grouping into animals, plants and fungi / micro-organisms

Animals	Plants	Fungi / Micro-organisms
Goldfish 	Fern 	Toadstool 
Kingfisher 	Oak Tree 	Mushroom 
Wasp 	Moss 	Yeast 
Spider 	Seaweed 	Bacteria 
Snake 	daisy 	

Plants include trees, mosses, ferns, grasses and many flowering plants. Plants in the sea include seaweed, kelp, algae and seagrass.

Animals include minibeasts such as insects, spiders and worms. They also include birds, fish, reptiles, mammals and amphibians.

Microorganisms can be 'good' or 'bad'. Many bacteria live in our gut. Bacteria can also cause diseases.

Fungi are different from plants. They include mushrooms and toadstools. Yeast is a fungus but often classified as a micro-organism.