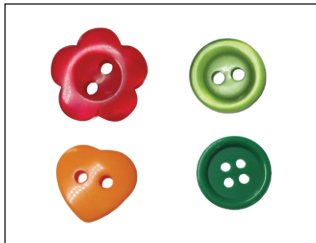


Knowledge organiser

What are observable features?

Observable features are things we can see, such as colour, shape, size, number of parts, patterns or textures. Scientists use these features to group and identify living things.



colour and shape



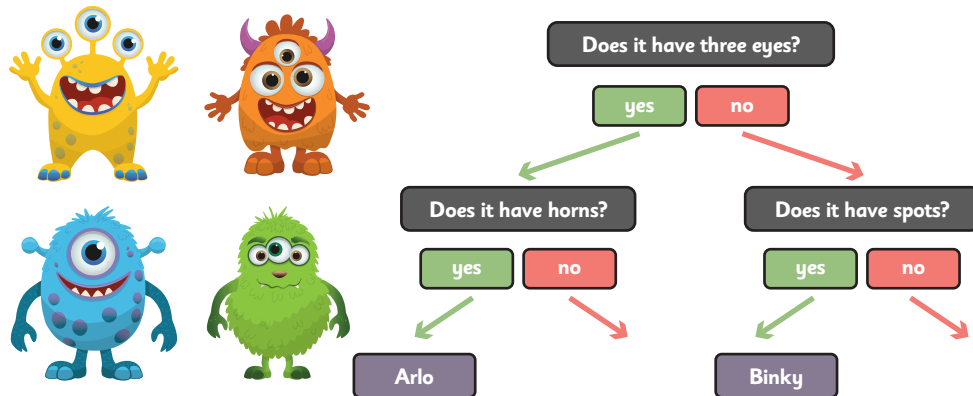
body parts and skin texture



leaf and flower features

What is a classification key?

A classification key is a tool that helps us identify living things by answering a series of questions. Each question splits the group into two smaller groups based on a feature. By following the questions step by step, we can work out which organism we have.



Each question splits the group into two. Following the questions leads you to the correct identification.

How can we group animals?

We can group animals by their observable features, such as body covering, number of legs, wings, fins or other visible parts. Different features create different groups.

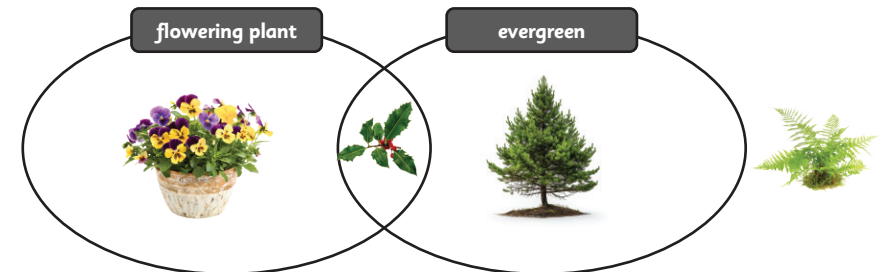
wings	no wings	vertebrate	invertebrate
 	 	 	 

We use clear yes/no criteria in a Carroll diagram to sort animals into simple groups.

We use features such as backbones and internal skeletons to classify animals into scientific groups.

How can we group plants?

We classify plants by looking at features such as flowers, leaves and stems. Different criteria help us sort plants into useful groups.



This Venn diagram shows how plants can fit into more than one group when we sort them using two features.

What living things can we identify locally?

Different habitats around our school, such as trees, grass, soil and walls, support different plants, animals and invertebrates. By observing carefully and using classification keys, we can identify what lives in each place. What we find will depend on the season, the weather and the conditions of each habitat.

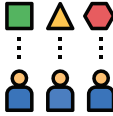
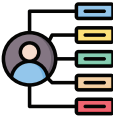


We can identify plants by looking closely at their leaves, flowers and other features.



Different invertebrates live in different habitats, so we look in the right places to find them.

Key vocabulary

 characteristic	 classify	 climate	 criteria
 environment	 evaluate	 feature	 identify
 observe	 plant		

How is our environment changing?

Our environment changes for many reasons. Some changes are natural while others are caused by humans.



Natural events such as volcanoes and storms can change habitats.



Human actions, such as pollution and habitat loss, change environments too quickly.

Environmental changes affect the habitats that living things depend on.



When the environment changes, the conditions that plants and animals need can change too. Some living things can change or move away, but others may struggle to survive.



Humans can help by protecting habitats, reducing pollution and caring for the natural world.



Grammarsaurus