

I learned a bit about this in
Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5!

Year 6 Science Knowledge Organiser

Living Things and their Habitats



Key Knowledge

Classification is the process of sorting living things into groups. Scientists use a classification system called **taxonomy** – this is where you group things based on their characteristics (similarities and differences).

Most living things are sorted into 2 main categories – **vertebrates** and **invertebrates**.

Vertebrates can be split into 5 main categories – **mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians**.

Invertebrates can include things like **annelids** (segmented worms), **arachnids, crustaceans, insects and molluscs**.

Plants can be classified into **flowering** and **non-flowering**. They can also be classified into those that produce seeds and those that do not. Plants that do not produce seeds, instead produce **spores** which help them to reproduce.

Microorganisms are generally classified as **bacteria** or **fungi**. Bacteria are so small that they are made up of just one cell! Fungi are like a natural recycling method, they take dead matter and turn it into nutrients for the soil.

Viruses are also microorganisms but they are not living. They copy themselves instead of growing and do not need to feed so they are different from living microorganisms.

Microorganisms are all around us! They can be helpful, like those found in human guts or harmful, like those that cause food poisoning.

Key Vocabulary

Characteristic	A quality or trait that makes something unique and helps to identify them
Microorganism	Something so small it can only be seen using a microscope
Vertebrates	Animals with a backbone
Invertebrates	Animals without a backbone
Bacteria	A tiny living thing made up from just one cell
Fungi	A living thing that takes in dead matter and turns it into nutrients
Virus	A germ smaller than bacteria that cannot survive on its own. It must have a "host" cell to invade in order to grow/multiply
Cell	A small unit that makes up all living things

Invertebrates: **Annelids** (Earthworms and leeches)



Arachnids (spiders, scorpions, mites and ticks)

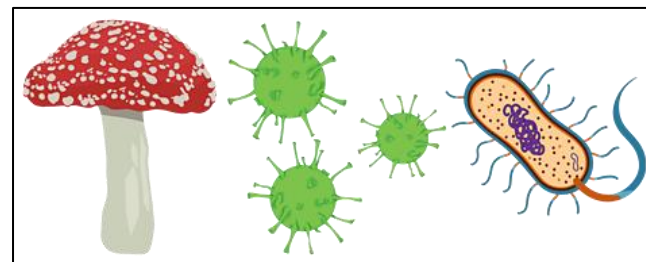


Crustaceans (shrimps, crabs, woodlice, lobsters)

Insects (ants, beetles, flies)



Molluscs (snails, slugs, octopuses, oysters)



Fungi, viruses, bacteria

