

Living Things and their Habitats

Overview of unit / topic

Living things can be grouped (classified) in different ways according to their features. Classification keys can be used to identify and name living things.

Living things live in a habitat which provides an environment to which they are suited. These environments may change naturally e.g. through flooding, fire, earthquakes etc. Humans also cause the environment to change. This can be in a good way (i.e. positive human impact, such as setting up nature reserves) or in a bad way (i.e. negative human impact, such as littering). These environments also change with the seasons; different living things can be found in a habitat at different times of the year.

Key Vocabulary

Classification: the process of sorting things into different groups in accordance to their characteristics.

Classification keys: a set of questions about the characteristics of living things

Environment: the place or conditions in which a human, animal or plant lives. Environments can contain many habitats.

Habitat: the natural home or environment of a particular animal, plant or other organism.

Human impact: changes to the environment caused by humans

Migrate: Moving from one region or habitat to another according to the seasons

Hibernate: a deep sleep that helps an animal to save energy and survive winter without eating much

Key Knowledge and Understanding: What will we be learning about in this unit / topic?

To recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.

To explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.

To recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose danger to living things.

Plants and animals rely on their environment to give them everything they need. Therefore, when habitats change, it can be very dangerous to the plants and animals that live there.



Changes to an environment can be natural or caused by humans. Examples include:

Natural: earthquakes, storms, floods, draughts, wildfires, the seasons

Human-made: deforestation, pollution, urbanisation, the introduction of a new animal or plant species to an environment.

Animals can be grouped in lots of different ways by looking at how they are similar or different.

