

Essential Learning

- Living things (including plants, animals and microorganisms) can be classified.
- Animals are divided into two main groups. Animals that have a backbone are called vertebrates. Animals that don't have a backbone are called invertebrates.
- Mammals are warm blooded. Their young drink their mother's milk. Have hair or fur. Give birth to live young.
- Amphibians are cold blooded. They live on land and water. They lay eggs. They have moist skin. They have webbed feet.
- Fish are cold blooded. They live in water. They have fins not legs. They have gills instead of lungs to breathe underwater. They lay their eggs in water.
- Birds are warm blooded. They have a beak, wings, feathers and two legs.
- Insects are cold blooded. They have two antennae, six legs and a body divided into three parts. Many kinds of insects live in colonies. Most hatch from eggs.
- Carl Linnaeus is famous for his work in Taxonomy, the science of identifying, naming and classifying organisms.

Key Vocabulary

Amphibian - a cold-blooded vertebrate that spends some time on land but must breed and develop into an adult in water

Bird - any of a class of warm-blooded egg-laying vertebrate animals with the body covered with feathers and the forelimbs modified as wings

Characteristic - the distinguishing features or quality of something

Classification key - a series of questions that determine an organism's physical characteristics

Classify - to arrange (a group of people or things) in categories based on their shared qualities or characteristics

Fish - a kind of animal that lives in water.

Insect - creatures that have bodies with three segments that are protected by a hard shell

Invertebrate - a creature that does not have a spine

Mammal - humans and all other animals that are warm-blooded vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) with hair

Microorganism - a living thing that is too small to be seen with the naked eye e.g. bacteria

Reptile - cold-blooded animals that are characterised by their scales and their ability to lay eggs

Vertebrate - a creature which has a spine



Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778)
Father of Classification

- The Linnaean system, named after Carl Linnaeus, has different levels where the number of living things in each group gets smaller and smaller, until there will just be one type of animal in the **species** group.

