



Buglawton Primary School

Be the Best We Can

Topic: Living things and their habitats

Subject: Science

Year: 4

Term: Autumn

What should I already know?

- Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.
- Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.
- Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.
- Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets).
- Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats.

What will I know and by the end of the unit?

- Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.
- Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.
- Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

What will I be able to do by the end of the unit?

- Can name living things living in a range of habitats, giving the key features that helped them to identify them
- Can give examples of how an environment may change both naturally and due to human impact
- Can keep a careful record of living things found in different habitats throughout the year (diagrams, tally charts etc.)
- Can use classification keys to identify unknown plants and animals

Agreed Real-life outcome:

Can present their learning about changes to the environment in different ways e.g. campaign video, persuasive letter

Key Vocabulary

organisms	This is another word that can be used to mean 'living things'.
life processes	The things living things do to stay alive.
respiration	A process where plants and animals use oxygen gas from the air to help turn their food into energy.
sensitivity	The way living things react to changes in their environment .
reproduction	The process through which young are produced.
excretion	The process by which living things get rid of waste products.
nutrition	Food which provides living things with energy to live and stay healthy.
habitat	The specific area or place in which particular animals or plants may live.
environment	An environment contains many habitats and these include areas where there are both living and non-living things.
endangered species	A plant or animal where there are not many of their species left and scientists are concerned that the species may become extinct .
extinct	When a species has no more members alive on the planet, it is extinct .

Changes to an **environment** can be natural or caused by humans. Changes to an **environment** can have positive as well as negative effects. Here are some examples of things that can change an **environment**.

Natural

- earthquakes
- storms
- floods
- droughts
- wildfires
- the seasons

Human-Made

- deforestation
- pollution
- urbanisation
- the introduction of new animal or plant species to an **environment**
- creating new nature reserves

Life Processes

To stay alive and healthy, all living things need certain conditions that let them carry out the seven **life processes**:

- Movement
- Respiration
- Sensitivity
- Growth
- Reproduction
- Excretion
- Nutrition



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

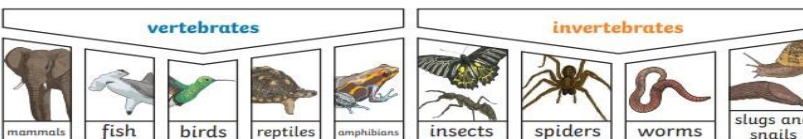
Key Vocabulary

classification	This is where plants or animals are placed into groups according to their similarities.
vertebrates	Animals with a backbone.
invertebrates	Animals without a backbone.
specimen	A particular plant or animal that scientists study to find out about its species.
characteristics	The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.

Plants can be sorted into many different groups. For example:



Animals can be grouped in lots of different ways based upon their **characteristics**.



Vertebrates can be separated into five broad groups.

You can use **classification** keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things. Here is an example of a **classification** key:

You could sort **invertebrates** you might see around school in different ways, such as in this example. The vast majority of living things on the planet are **invertebrates**.

Invertebrate Classification Key

