

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser

Living Things



Glossary

Vertebrate – animals with a backbone.

Invertebrate – animals without a backbone.

Identification – the individual characteristics by which a thing or person is recognised.

Classification – the arrangement of plants and animals according to their observed similarities.

Characteristics – a feature or quality belonging to a person, place or thing.

Similarities – having similar feature or aspect.

Kingdom – highest rank of classifying organisms.

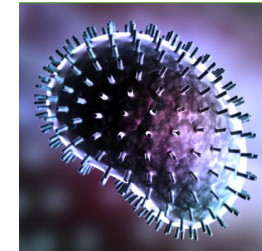
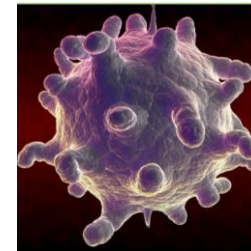
Genus – the general type of tree eg. Pine.

Species – type of genus (pine) eg. Sugar.

Micro-organisms – a microscopic organism; bacterium, virus or fungus.

Molluscs – invertebrate including snails, slugs, mussels and octopuss.

Arachnids – spider or scorpion.



Did You Know?

99% of bacteria are actually helpful.

Fungi are not plants – they cannot produce food using photosynthesis.

Humans are vertebrates just like animals.

All living things eat, breathe, grow & reproduce.

Every living thing on Earth contains carbon!

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Plants are classified into 5 main groups (Divisions) and then subdivided at different levels. The main levels are; **Kingdom, Division, Order, Family, Genus, and Species**.

Animals are classified into 2 main groups: **vertebrates** and **invertebrates** and then at different levels in a similar way to plants.

The main levels for animals use a slightly different terminology: **Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species**. Every type of plant or animal can be described in terms of these levels.

The Classification System

The Classification System was created by **Carl Linneaus** in the 19th Century and is still used today.

Classification is not the same as identification.

During classification the emphasis is on the **similarities** of objects in order to demonstrate that they belong to the same group.

Identification focusses on the differences between objects in order to be able to give a specific name to that particular thing. The two processes are linked but not interchangeable.

A leopard, scientific name: <i>Panthera pardus</i>	
Kingdom	Animalia (animals)
Phylum	Chordata (vertebrates)
Class	Mammalia (mammals)
Order	Carnivora (carnivores)
Family	Felidae (cats)
Genus	<i>Panthera</i> (big cats)
Species	<i>pardus</i>

Classification Table - Leopard