



Big Question:

How do scientists classify living things?

Key Vocabulary:

Characteristics: The distinguishing features or qualities that are specific to a species.

Classification: This is where plants or animals are placed into groups according to their similarities.

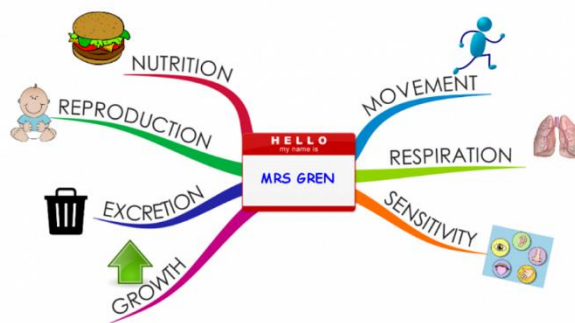
Vertebrates: Animals with a backbone.

Invertebrates: Animals without a backbone.

New knowledge that will help me answer the big question:

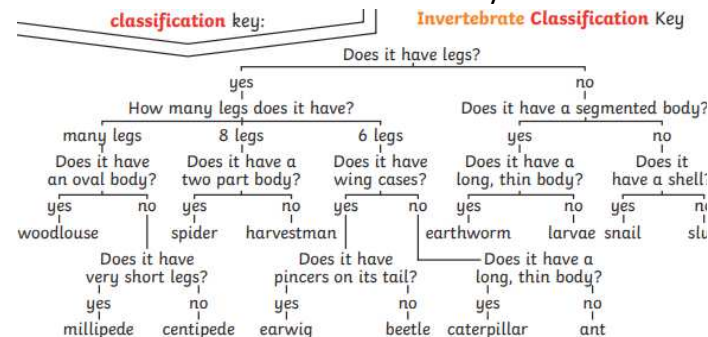
To stay alive and healthy, all living things need certain conditions that let them carry out the seven life processes:

- M-** Movement
- R-** Respiration
- S-** Sensitivity
- G-** Growth
- R-** Reproduction
- E-** Excretion
- N-** Nutrition



New knowledge that will help me answer the big question:

- Scientists use classification keys to help them classify living things. Here is an example of an invertebrate classification key.

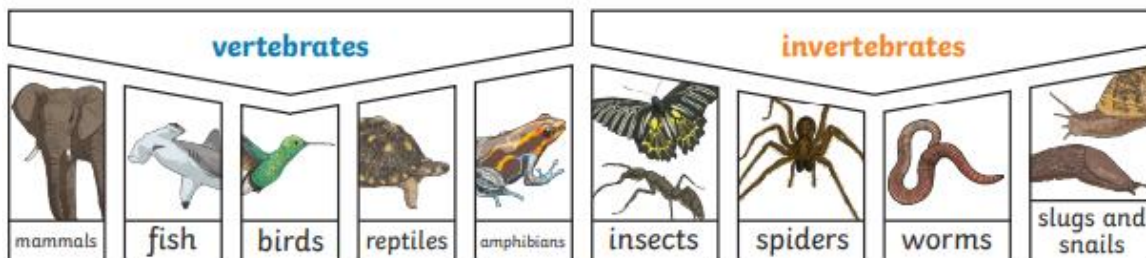


- Plants and animals rely on the environment to give them everything they need. Therefore, when habitats change, it can be very dangerous to the plants and animals that live there.
- Habitats change over time, either due to natural or human influences. Changes to the environment can have either positive or negative impact.
 - Natural: earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts, wildfires, the seasons
 - Human: deforestation, pollution, littering, habitat destruction, building new nature reserves

New knowledge that will help me answer the big question:

Scientists group living things based on their shared characteristics. This is known as classification. For example, living things could be classified as plants or animals.

Animals can be classified as vertebrates (those with a backbone) and invertebrates (those without a backbone). Vertebrates can be separated into five broad groups.



As a scientist, the essential knowledge I need to answer the big question is:	Date
Scientists classify living things according to shared characteristics.	
Animals can be divided into six main groups: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish and invertebrates.	
Classification keys are a scientific tools that aid the identification of living things.	
An observation involves looking closely at objects, materials and living things, which can be compared and grouped according to their features.	