

Living things and their habitats: How do we classify things?

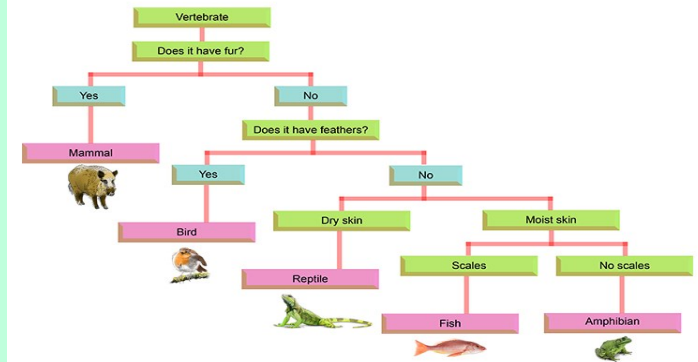
key vocabulary

characteristics	Unique features that helps us to tell things apart.
classification key	A list of questions that determine an organism's physical characteristics.
kingdom	A part of the classification that groups animals with similar characteristics.
offspring	The child of an organism.
organism	A living thing.
reproduction	The way living things create young (offspring).
species	A group of living things that can reproduce with one another to create offspring.

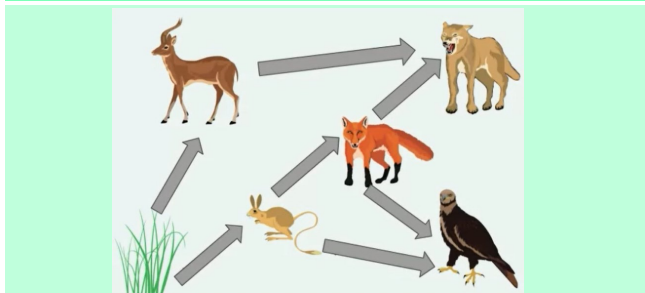
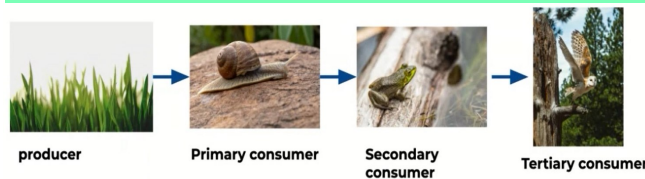
What is classification?

Classification is a system scientists use to group **organisms** based on their similar **characteristics**. When we group plants and animals like this, we can better understand and study life on Earth.

- we use **classification keys** to organise organisms into groups
- at each branch of the key there are two possible answers
- decide whether an organism has / does not have a characteristic to narrow it down into a **kingdom** or **species**



Food chains and food webs



Producer = can make their own energy and provides food for other organisms

Consumer = feeds on other organisms for energy

Habitats and adaptation

What is a habitat?

This is the natural environment where an organism lives.

What is adaptation?

Adaptations are characteristics that improve an organism's chance for survival.
*The greater the chance of survival, the greater the chance to **reproduce** and have **offspring**.*

What are risks to survival?

Habitats change over time—sometimes naturally, but also due to human influences.

Because adaptations happen very slowly, human changes like plastic pollution happen too quickly for animals to adapt to—this harms their chance of survival.