Animal Classification

Because of Earth's huge animal population, animals have been divided into 6 main groups: mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates.

Mammals

Mammals are warm-blooded *vertebrate* animals who posses hair or fur. Their offspring (babies) are typically birthed live (no eggs), and are then breast fed milk by their mother.

Birds

Birds are warm-blooded *vertebrate* animals with wings & feathers, that allow most of them to fly. The have beaks instead of teeth, and lay hard-shelled eggs.

Fish

Fish are cold-blooded, scaly-skinned *vertebrates* that swim in water and breathe using gills.

Amphibians

Amphibians are small, cold-blooded *vertebrates* that can live on land and in water.

Reptiles

Reptiles are air breathing, scaly-skinned, cold-blooded *vertebrates* that live on land and also in water.

Invertebrates

Invertebrates do not have a backbone and are divided into 6 groups. Poriferans (sponges), Cnidarians (jellyfish), Echinoderms (sea star), Mollusks (octopus), Arthropods (insects, spiders), & Annelids (worms).

Insects are small animals with six legs, wings and 3 part bodies.

Arachnids are small animals with 8 legs and 2 part bodies.

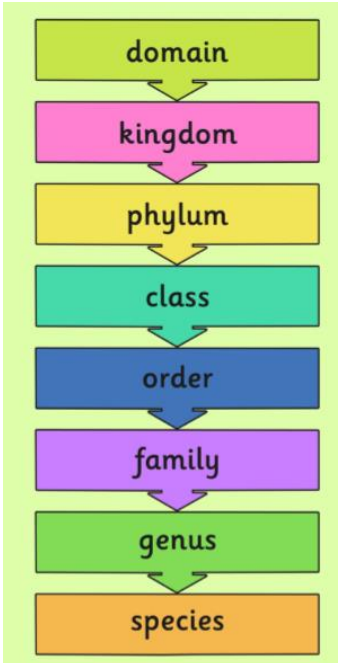
Microorganisms are very tiny living things. They are so small that they are not visible to the naked eye, so a microscope is needed to see them.

Microorganisms can be found all around us. They can live on and in our bodies, in the air, in water and on the objects around us. They can be found in almost every habitat on Earth. Some are **helpful** and some are **harmful**.

Science- Living things and their habitats

Carl Linnaeus was a Swedish scientist who believed it was very important to have a standard system of classification. Living things can be classified by following the levels in this system. 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.

- **To investigate living things**
- **To work scientifically**



Fungus

Bacteria

Virus

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Classify	To arrange a group of things into categories.
Linnaean system	A system set up by Carl Linneaus in which living things can be classified.
Mammal	A living thing that gives birth to live young.
Characteristics	A feature or quality belonging to someone or something.
Organism	An individual animal, plant or a single-celled life form.
Vertebrate	A living organism with a backbone.
Invertebrate	A living organism without a backbone.
Microorganism	A tiny living thing that can not be seen by the naked eye. You need to use a microscope. Examples of microorganisms are bacteria, viruses and fungus.
Taxonomy	The branch of science concerned with classification of organisms.

Alexander Flemming discovered Penicillin in 1928 after leaving petri dishes out in his laboratory when he went on a family holiday. When he returned, he noticed that mould had grown in one of the Petri dishes. The colonies of bacteria around the mould had been destroyed, whereas the bacteria in other Petri dishes were still alive. Penicillin is a type of mould. This is an example of a helpful microorganism.