

Science - Do you want to be in my 'Class'?

Did you know there are an amazing 8.7 million species of living things on earth? That includes animals, plants and microorganisms! How many living things can you name?

Key Vocabulary

Coral (a living thing) in its habitat (the sea bed)



Have you ever tried to sort your clothes or toys into different groups? Maybe you did this by colour, shape or size. This is a little like **classification** (which is the study of putting living things into groups).



Over 300 years ago a man called Carl Linnaeus grouped living things into two groups called **Genus** and **Species**, this made it easier for scientists all over the world, who spoke different languages to communicate about living things more easily.

What is a living thing?

How do we know if something is living? In order to be described as living it must grow, develop, use energy, reproduce and respond and adapt to its environment. For example, animals, trees and plants are all living things.

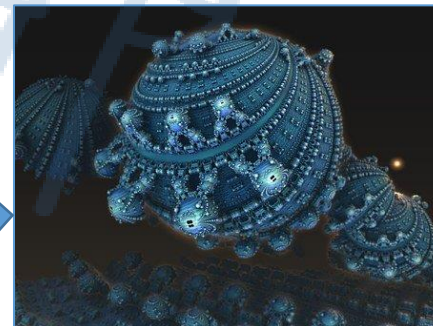
What is a Habitat?

A habitat is a 'home environment' for plants and animals. For example, deserts, woodland and the sea.

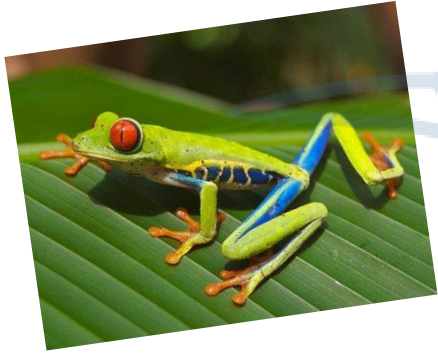
What is a Microorganism?

Microorganisms are simple forms of life that include **bacteria**, **algae**, **fungi** and **viruses**. Microorganisms are far too small to be seen with the human eye and are normally viewed by using a microscope.

An enlarged image of a Microorganism called bacteria



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We have discovered that animals have been divided into groups or '**classified**' by looking at their **similarities** and **differences**. Classification has divided these animal groups into two main groups:

1. Animals that have a **backbone**, these are called **vertebrates**. For example, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. **Can you think of any other vertebrates?**



2. Animals that don't have a **backbone** are called **invertebrates**. There are many different groups of invertebrates, they include invertebrates which have soft bodies such as, jellyfish, worms and molluscs (like slugs and squids). There are also groups of invertebrates with hard bodies, such as insects and spiders.

Can you name any other invertebrates?



Can you name the animals in the pictures? Do you know what classification group they each belong to?