

Living Things And Their Habitats

Grouping Living Things

Living things are classified into broad groups. Scientists look for **similarities** and **differences** between their **features**. They then put living things into **groups** based on the features they have in **common**.

There are **three main groups** – **animals, plants** and **micro-organisms**.

Some animals have **backbones (vertebrates)** and some do not (**invertebrates**).

Micro-Organisms

Microorganisms are tiny. They are so small they can only be seen with a microscope. There are **three types of Micro-Organisms: Viruses, Bacteria and Fungus**.

Microorganisms are also known as '**germs**'. Harmful germs can make us unwell. Good hygiene will avoid spreading these germs. Use soap and hot water to wash your hands after preparing food or using the toilet. This will kill bacteria.

Fungi

Fungi are **plant like organisms** that **cannot make their own food from water, light and soil**.

A few examples of fungi are yeast, moulds and mushrooms.

They live in warm, dark and damp places.

Viruses

Viruses can only survive for long periods of time when **living in another organism**.

The organism that the **virus lives in is called the host**.

Viruses can multiply rapidly inside the host and sometimes make them very sick. They can **only live for a short while on objects outside the body**.

Bacteria

Bacteria are **very tiny, one-celled organisms**, which **need nutrition from their environment**.

Bacteria **produce toxins** that cause cells to burst and release the key nutrients that they need. **Not all bacteria are bad**, as our body is full of helpful bacteria that we need every day.

Classification

Today we use **7 different levels of classification: Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species**

Scientists have now divided living things into five larger groups called Kingdoms.

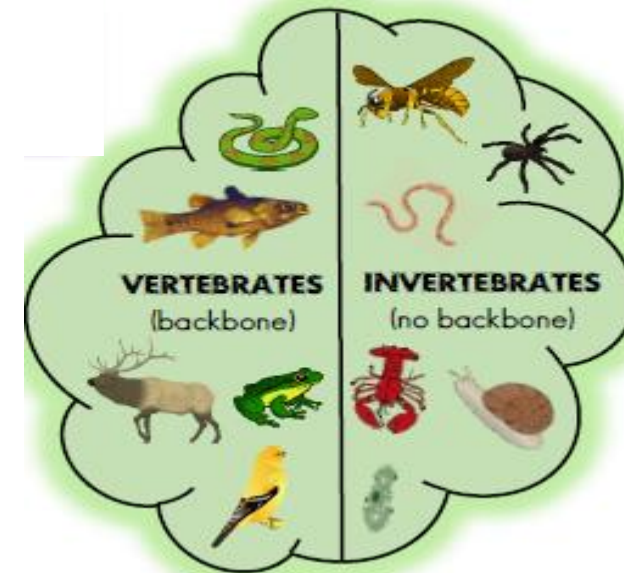
- 1.) Plants
- 2.) Animals
- 3.) Fungus (mushrooms, yeast, mould, mildew)
- 4.) Protist (protozoans, amoeba, euglena)
- 5.) Prokaryote (blue-green algae, bacteria)

Aristotle

Aristotle (a Greek philosopher) classified things into **4 main groups in 350 B.C.**

Carl Linnaeus

A botanist, physician and zoologist simplified the naming of living things in 1735



Plants

Grouping Plants – You have 2 plant groups.

Flowering Plants - Grow flowers and use seeds to reproduce.

Non – Flowering Plants - Do not grow flowers and use either seeds or spores to reproduce.