

Key vocabulary

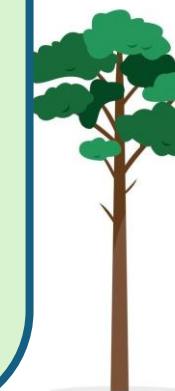
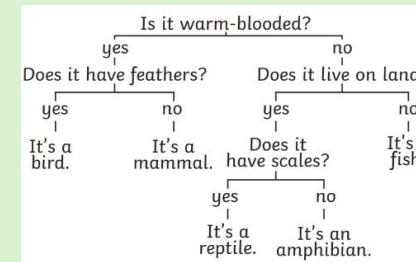
Microorganism	A microorganism is an organism that can only be seen using a microscope.
Species	A species is a group of organisms with shared characteristics that can reproduce to produce fertile offspring.
Characteristics	A characteristic is a particular feature or quality that is specific to an individual, species or group.
Classification	Classification is the process of grouping living things according to their similarities.
Classification key	A classification key is a set of questions used to identify and group living things. They are usually based on an organism's physical characteristics .
Organism	' Organism ' is another way to refer to a living thing



Microorganisms are microscopic organisms that can be found almost everywhere on Earth – including inside our bodies.

Classification

In the 1700s, Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus published a system for classifying living things based on their observable **characteristics**, known as the Linnaean System. An adapted version of this system is still used today.



Taxonomists

Taxonomists are scientists who sort, group and classify living things based on their similarities and differences. We can use a **classification** key to group and classify living things like a taxonomist does.



Flowering and Non-Flowering

Plants can be sorted based on whether they are flowering or non-flowering. Flowering plants use flowers to produce seeds at some point in their life cycle, whereas non-flowering plants reproduce using cones, spores and fragmentation

Flowering plants include deciduous trees, many types of herbs and crop plants



Non-flowering plants include conifers, mosses, ferns and liverworts.

