How can we classify minibeasts?

Key Vocabulary

vertebrates	Animals with a backbone.
invertebrates	Animals without a backbone.
classification	This is where plants or animals are placed into groups according to their similarities.
habitat	The specific area or place in which particular animals or plants may live.
environment	An **environment** contains many **habitats** and these include areas where there are both living and non-living things.

Life Processes

To stay alive and healthy, all living things need certain conditions that let them carry out the seven **life processes**:

Movement
Respiration
Sensitivity
Growth
Reproduction
Excretion
Nutrition

Grouping living things

Animals can be put into one of two groups

Vertebrates – animals with a backbone
Invertebrates - animals without a backbone

Vertebrates

Vertebrates can be grouped 5 ways
- Fish
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Mammals

How to spot a fish 
- Breathes with gills
- Lays eggs in water
- Has fins and scales
- Its body changes temperature

How to spot an amphibian 
- Born with gills then develops lungs
- Lays eggs in water
- Damp skin
- Body temperature changes

How to spot a reptile 
- Breathes with lungs
- Lays eggs on land
- Dry scaly skin
- Body temperature changes

How to spot a bird 
- Breathes with lungs
- Lays eggs with hard shells
- Has feathers
- Steady body temperature

How to spot a mammal 
- Breathes with lungs
- Babies are born live
- Body hair or fur
- Steady body temperature
- Feeds babies milk

Invertebrates

Invertebrates can be grouped 4 ways
- Insects
- Arachnids
- Snails and slugs
- Worms

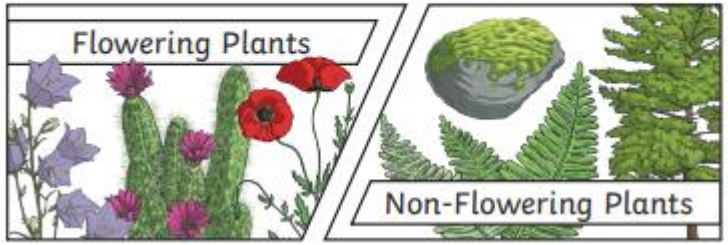
How to spot an insect 
- 3 body sections
- 6 legs

How to spot an arachnid 
- 2 body sections
- 8 legs

How to spot snails and slugs 
- Slimy foot
- Often have a shell

How to spot a worm 
- 0 legs
- Long tube-like body

Plants can be sorted into many different groups. For example:



Plant Groups

Plants can be put into one of two groups

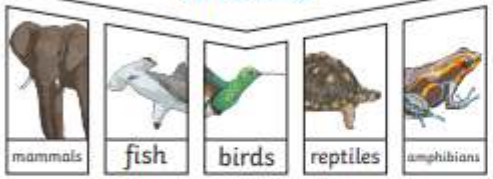
Flowering plants
Non flowering plants

Flowering plants are made up of 4 groups
- Grasses
- Cereals
- Garden shrubs
- Deciduous trees

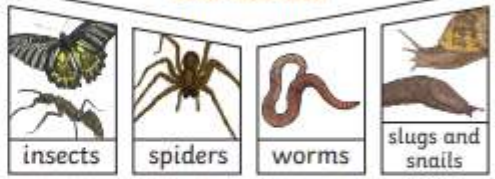
Non flowering plants are made up of 3 groups
- Algae
- Coniferous trees
- Ferns

Animals can be grouped in lots of different ways based upon their **characteristics**.

vertebrates



invertebrates

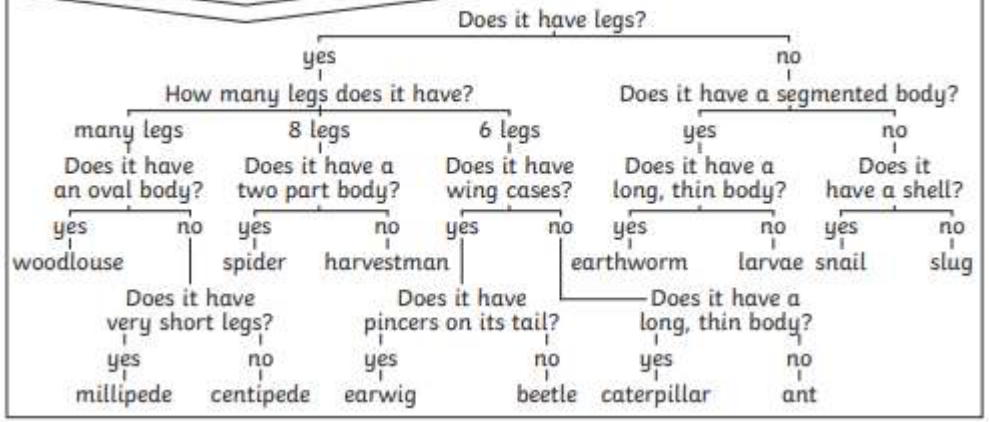


Vertebrates can be separated into five broad groups.

You could sort **invertebrates** you might see around school in different ways, such as in this example. The vast majority of living things on the planet are **invertebrates**.

You can use **classification** keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things. Here is an example of a **classification** key:

Invertebrate Classification Key



Venn Diagram

Changes to an **environment** can be natural or caused by humans. Changes to an **environment** can have positive as well as negative effects. Here are some examples of things that can change an **environment**.

Natural

- earthquakes
- storms
- floods
- droughts
- wildfires
- the seasons

Human-Made

- deforestation
- pollution
- urbanisation
- the introduction of new animal or plant species to an **environment**
- creating new nature reserves

Plants and animals rely on the **environment** to give them everything they need. Therefore, when **habitats** change, it can be very dangerous to the plants and animals that live there.