

HOW IMPORTANT ARE ECOSYSTEMS TO THE SURVIVAL OF ANIMALS?

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



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

M	Movement – can it move on its own?
R	Respiration – does it breathe?
S	Sensitivity – is it sensitive to the environment around it?
G	Growth – does it grow over time?
R	Reproduction – does it create offspring?
E	Excretion – does it excrete waste?
N	Nutrition – does it need nutrition (food, water) to thrive?

Living things in a habitat all depend on each other for their survival. They provide things like food and shelter for other living things. The bee depends on the flowers on the plant to provide a source of food. The plant depends on the worm to make the soil healthy so it can grow.

Key Vocabulary			
environment	The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates.	extinct	When a species has no more members alive on the planet, it is extinct.
habitat	The natural place that something lives. A habitat provides living things with everything they need to survive.	producer	An organism that produces organic compounds from simple substances such as water and carbon dioxide.
ecosystem	A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.	consumer	An organism that derives the organic compounds and energy it needs from the consumption of other organisms.
classification	The arrangement of animals and plants in taxonomic groups according to their observed similarities	pollinator	A pollinator is anything that helps carry pollen from the male part of the flower (stamen) to the female part of the same or another flower (stigma).
vertebrate	Animals with a backbone.	prey	An animal that is caught and killed by another for food.
invertebrate	An animal without a backbone.	predator	An animal that naturally preys on others.
exoskeleton	A rigid external covering for the body in some invertebrate animals.	decomposer	An organism, especially a soil bacterium, fungus, or invertebrate, that decomposes organic material.
endangered	A plant or animal where there are not many of their species left and scientists are concerned that the species may become extinct.	organism	This is another word that can be used to mean ‘living things’.

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

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.

Natural

Earthquakes
Storms
Floods
Droughts
Wildfires
The seasons

Man-Made

Deforestation
Pollution
Urbanisation
The introduction of new animal or plant species to an environment
Creating new nature reserves

In a food chain, the arrows mean ‘is eaten by’.

Flowering Plants



Non-Flowering Plants



pollinator



decomposer



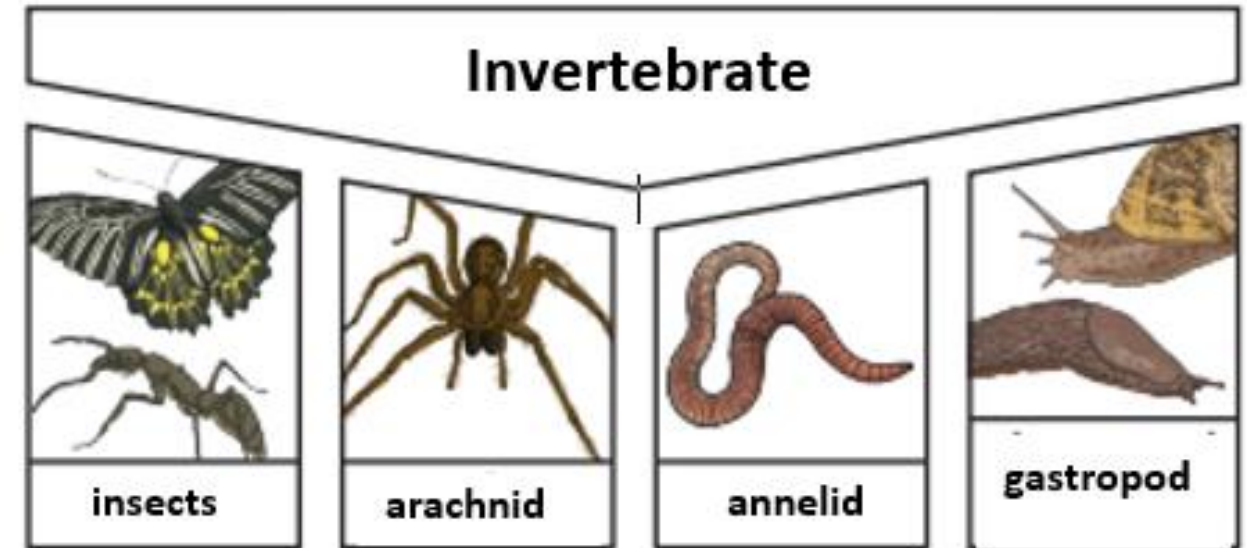
predator





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

