



Living things and their Habitats

Science
Year 6
Autumn Term

Overview

During this topic, we will be exploring the classification system used to classify animals. We will also be conducting investigations about micro-organisms and how they are classified.



Knowledge & Understanding

In this unit, the pupils will:

- describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals
- give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

Enquiry Skills & Concepts

In this unit, the pupils will be:

- planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary
- taking measurements with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate
- recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs
- using test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests
- reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, including conclusions.
- identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

Home – School link project

During this topic pupils can choose to:

- Create a classification chart of all the living things in your environment.
- Photograph living things in their habitats.

Topic Vocabulary

classification – to group together similar species of plants, animals and organisms

characteristic - distinguishing trait, quality or property of a living thing

invertebrate - an animal that does not have a backbone or skeleton inside its body

organism – an individual living thing

species - a group of living things that are similar and can reproduce with each other

vertebrate - an animal that has a skeleton with a backbone inside its body

micro-organism – a very small organism that can not usually be seen by the naked eye, often single-celled.

Working Scientifically

analyse – explore why something happened the way it did

comparative test – a test that compare one event to another and identify different outcomes

controlled variable – a variable that is kept the same in an experiment

dependent variable – a variable being tested or measure in an experiment

evaluation – examining how your test could be improved / changed in the future

fair test– a test that controls all but one variable when attempting to answer a scientific question

independent variable – a variable that is changed in an experiment