



YEAR 4 LIVING THINGS AND THEIR HABITATS



Key Vocabulary

organism	Organism is another way to refer to a living thing.
habitat	A habitat is the specific area or place in which particular animals or plants may live.
environment	The environment is the natural world, either as a whole or in a particular area.
species	A species is a group of living things that share enough similarities to be able to breed and produce young capable of breeding.
endangered species	An endangered species is a species that is at risk of extinction.
extinct	Extinct means that a species has no more members alive.
classification	Classification is the process of grouping living things according to their similarities.
warm-blooded	'Warm-blooded' refers to animals that are able to generate their own body heat.
cold-blooded	'Cold-blooded' refers to animals that are not able to generate their own body heat.
vertebrate	A vertebrate is an animal that has a spine.
invertebrate	An invertebrate is an animal that does not have a spine.
characteristic	A characteristic is a particular feature or quality that is specific to an individual or species.
metamorphosis	Metamorphosis is the process by which certain animals completely change their appearance and body structure.

Habitats provide...



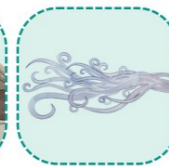
food



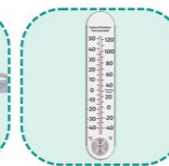
water



shelter



air



warmth

Vertebrate or Invertebrate?


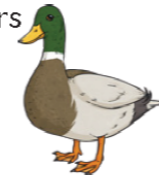



Animals can be grouped into one of two main groups: **vertebrates** and **invertebrates**.

Vertebrate animals have a spine (also known as a backbone). The spine helps to hold the body upright, protects the spinal column and allows the body to move.

Invertebrates do not have a spine.





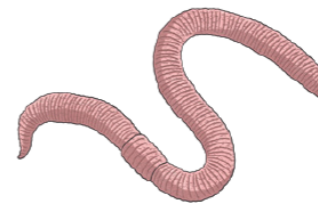

Vertebrates can be sorted into five main groups with their own **characteristics**.

Mammals	Birds	Reptiles
<p>warm-blooded give birth to live young produce milk have hair or fur</p> 	<p>warm-blooded lay eggs have feathers and a beak</p> 	<p>cold-blooded lay eggs have scales</p> 
Amphibians	Fish	
<p>cold-blooded lay spawn often undergo metamorphosis</p> 	<p>cold-blooded have scales lay spawn live in water</p> 	

Habitats

Plants and animals rely on their **habitats** to give them the conditions they need to live. **Habitats** can change, both naturally and due to human actions. These actions can have positive and negative effects on the animals that live there. Changes can make it easier or harder for living things to survive in the **habitat**. **Organisms** can become **endangered** or even be made **extinct** due to changes in their **habitats**.

Invertebrates can be sorted into many different groups. Here are four of them.

Arthropods	Molluscs
<p>have an exoskeleton have jointed legs include insects, arachnids, crustaceans, myriapods</p> 	<p>have a soft body with a head and a foot region often have a shell</p> 
Annelids	Echinoderms
<p>have no legs have segmented bodies</p> 	<p>have spiny or lumpy skin live in the ocean</p> 

Classification Key

Here is a simple classification key. It can be used to work out which vertebrate group an animal belongs to.

