



# Year 6 – Living things and their habitats

Scientists estimate that there are about 8.7 million **species** on Earth.

80% of the world's known animal species are **invertebrates**.



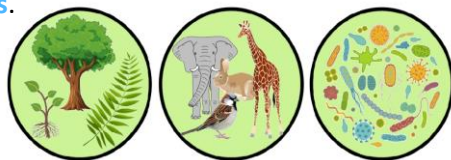
## ROCKET WORDS – learn these words and their definitions

Key Word	Definition
<b>classification</b>	to organise living things into groups
<b>microorganism</b>	a tiny, microscopic organism such as bacteria, virus or fungus
<b>fungi</b>	a diverse group of microorganisms which includes mushrooms and brewer's yeasts
<b>ecosystem</b>	a community of interactive living things which rely on each other to live and grow
<b>taxonomy</b>	the science of identifying, naming and classifying organisms

## What is classification?

When scientists put living things into groups, we call this **classification**. To do this, they look at the similarities and differences between their **characteristics**.

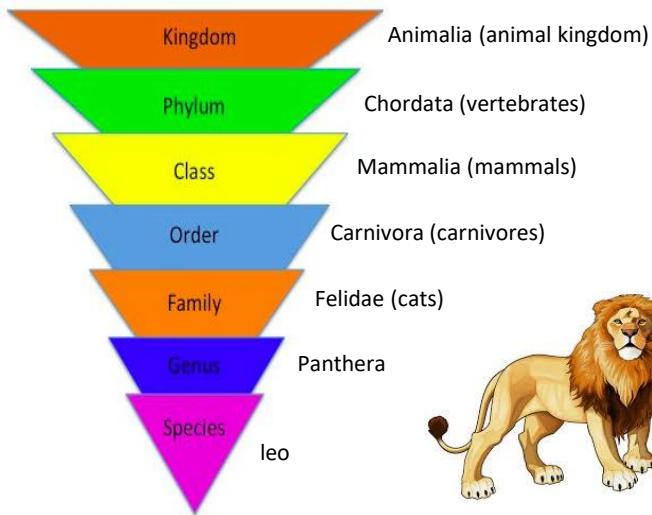
Living things include plants, animals and **microorganisms**.



Unlike plants, which get their energy from the sun, fungi get their energy from dead plants and animals.

## Carl Linnaeus

Carl Linnaeus (1701- 1778) was a Swedish scientist who created the system of **classification** that is used today. He also created our **binomial system** for naming things. The scientific name for a living thing is its genus and **species**.



*Scientific name = Panthera leo*

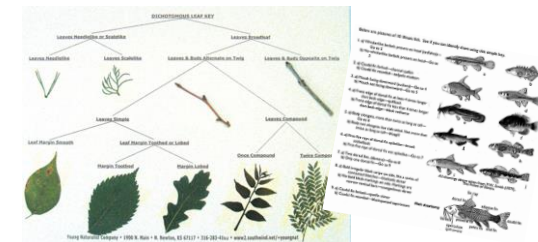


Carl Linnaeus named humans *Homo sapiens*: Home is the Latin word for man and sapiens means wise.



## Classification keys

Scientists use **keys** to identify unknown living things. A **key** is a series of questions each with two possible answers. The answers will lead you to the next question or will identify the unknown thing.



## Microorganisms

**Microorganisms** are organisms that are so tiny that we usually need to use a microscope to see them.



**Microorganisms** include **bacteria** and **fungi**. Some are useful and some are harmful.



Salmonella bacteria can cause food-related illness.



Yeast (a **fungus**) is used to make bread and beer.

Soil mostly consists of bacteria: a teaspoon can contain between 100 million and 1 billion.

Microorganisms do not include viruses, which are generally classified as non-living.