

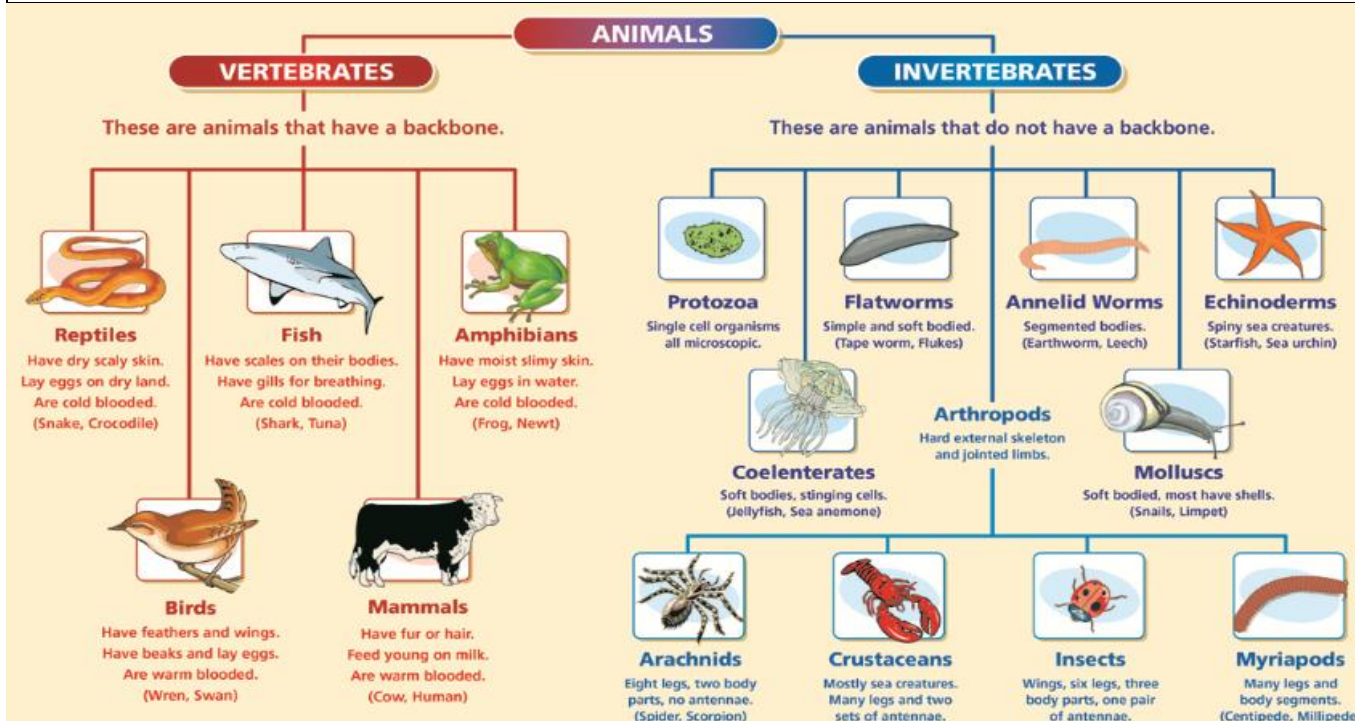


Classification of Living Things

Science KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Substantive Knowledge

- Animals can be divided into two main groups: those that have backbones (**vertebrates**); and those that do not (**invertebrates**).
- Vertebrates** can be divided into five small groups: **fish**; **amphibians**; **reptiles**; **birds**; and **mammals**. Each group has common characteristics.
- Invertebrates** can be divided into a number of groups, including insects, spiders, snails and worms.
- A **classification key** uses yes/no questions to sort living things.
- If habitats change, this can cause a species to decrease or increase.
- Habitats can be damaged or destroyed by humans (e.g. deforestation), natural disasters or climate change.



Key Vocabulary

vertebrates	An animal that has a backbone.
invertebrate	An animal that doesn't have a backbone.
mammal	Mammals include humans and all other animals that are warm-blooded vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) with hair . They feed their young with milk and have a more well-developed brain than other types of animals.
amphibian	Amphibians are cold-blooded vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) that don't have scales . They live part of their lives in water and part on land.
reptiles	a vertebrate animal of a class that includes snakes, lizards, crocodiles, turtles, and tortoises. They are distinguished by having a dry scaly skin and typically laying soft-shelled eggs on land.
fish	a limbless cold-blooded vertebrate animal with gills and fins living wholly in water.
birds	warm-blooded egg-laying vertebrate animal distinguished by the possession of feathers, wings, a beak, and typically by being able to fly.
Classification key	Using yes/no questions to sort living things

An example of a key used to classify living things.

