

Science—All living things Year 6

5 Vertebrate Groups and Microorganisms

Vertebrate	Characteristics
Fish	Scales, live in water, cold blooded, lay eggs, gills.
Amphibians	Smooth skin, live in water and land, cold blooded, lungs
Reptiles	Scales, lay eggs, cold blood, lungs
Mammals	Hair and fur, warm blooded, live births, lungs
Birds	Feathers, warm blooded, lay eggs, lungs

Reptile



Microorganisms





ebrafish

Are very tiny living things. They are not visible to the naked eye so a microscope is needed to see them. Microorganisms are found all around us, they can live in our bodies, in water, in the air and on the objects around us.



Learn

Classification Keys

Classification Keys are a set of yes or no questions about the characteristics of living things. They are used to group and sort animals and plants. Answer the questions and follow the Lines depending on whether the answer is yes or no.



Key Vocabulary		
Vertebrate	Animals which have a backbone/spine .	
Invertebrate	Animals which do not have a backbone/spine	
Classification	Grouping living things by looking at similarities and differences .	
Habitat	Where a plant or animal lives.	
Environment	The surroundings or conditions in which an animal or plant lives.	
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.	
Microorganism	A microscopic organism, especially bacteria, virus or fungus.	
Taxonomy	The part of science focused on classification.	
Virus	A small infectious agent that multiples within the living cells of a host.	
Bacteria	Tiny organisms that are everywhere around us.	
Fungi	Classification or group of living things. They are not plants, animals or bacteria.	

What I can do at home

Look at the classification of animals example. Create a classification key for plants.

Communicate

Talk to an adult at home about the things below. You don't need to record this.

Deserts make up a third of the Earth's land surface area and are characterised by very low rainfall, or none at all - more water evaporates from the ground than is replaced by rainfall making them arid. However when it does rain, in some regions, it pours and the landscape has to absorb huge amounts of rain in a short time leading to flash flooding. Most hot deserts are found between 15-30° north and south of the equator.

> Discuss the question: What if there were no desserts?