Living things and their habitats – Year 4

Key vocabulary	
classification	Grouping things based on their characteristics so that they can be identified.
classification key	A series of yes/no questions that help identify or classify things.
environment	The conditions in which a living thing exists. Soil, climate and other living things all count as part of the environment.
habitat	The place where an animal or plant lives.
migrate	The long-distance movement of animals, usually due to a change in the seasons.
hibernate	An animal or plant that spends the winter in a dormant state.
vertebrates	Animals that have a backbone. Fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.
invertebrates	Animals that do not have a backbone. Examples are snails, worms, spiders and insects.

How can environments change?	
Natural changes	This could be caused by flooding, fire, earthquakes etc

Human have an impact on the environment:

Positive impact

This could be:

- setting up a nature reserve
- tree planting
- creating a garden pond.

Negative impact

This could be:

- littering
- deforestation
- air pollution
- plastics in the oceans

Significant scientists	
Jane Goodall *(Born 1934)*	Jane Goodall is an expert on wild chimpanzees. She is known for her ground breaking discoveries about their behaviour. She has shown us the urgent need to protect chimpanzees from extiction.
Seirian Sumner	Dr Seirian Sumner is an evolutionary biologist and behavioural ecologist. She specialises in social evolution and behaviour in insects (bees, wasps and ants).

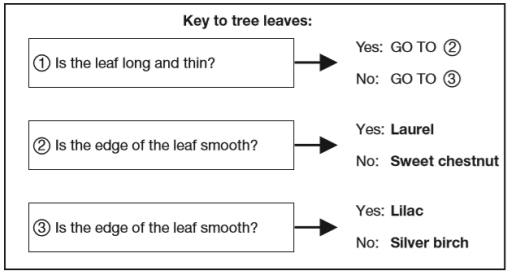
Environments can change with the seasons:

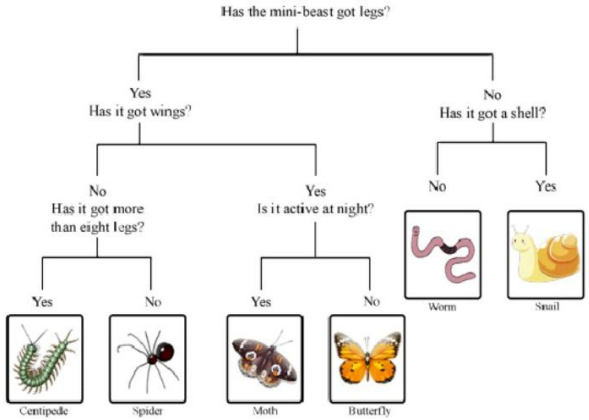
Arctic tern migrates from the Arctic to Antarctica.

Hedgehogs hibernate in the winter in small, dry, sheltered places, like tree roots.

Classification keys

A key to sort leaves





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Information relating to 'famous scientists' adapted from work by Alex Sinclair & Amy Strachan of St Mary's University