

Year 4 - Living things and their habitats

How can we tell the difference between different living things?

Prior learning

In Year 2, you learnt about the animal groups, habitats and the functions of all living things (MRS NERG).

Future learning

In Year 6, you will describe in detail how living things are classified.

In this unit you will:

- Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways
- Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment
- Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

Key Scientist: Margaret Strickland Collins



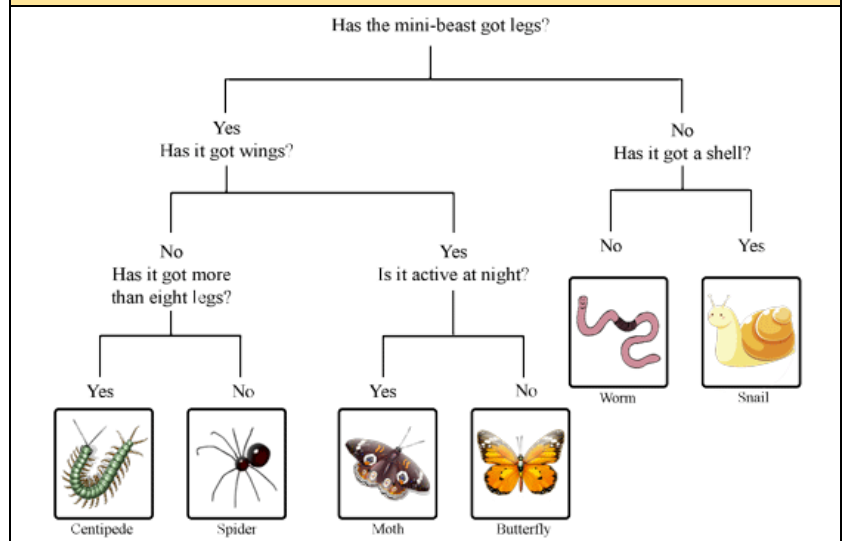
Margaret Strickland Collins was an expert in a certain invertebrate - termites! She made careful observations of termite behaviour and became known as 'termite lady'.

Science discipline: **Biology**

Biology is the study of living things. A biologist is a scientist who studies biology. Biologists try to understand the natural world and the things that live in it.



Scientific diagram



Vocabulary:

- **Classification keys:** A series of questions that determine an organism's physical characteristics.
- **Vertebrate:** Animals that have a backbone inside their body.
- **Invertebrate:** Animals without a backbone or bony skeleton.
- **Habitat:** The home of an animal or a plant.
- **Environment:** All the physical surroundings on Earth are called the environment.
- **Migrate:** A long journey to a new home is called a migration. Migrating animals generally go back and forth between summer and winter homes.
- **Hibernate:** When some animals have long periods of deep sleep during cold weather.