

## Science – Classification of living things

*Children will learn how to sort and classify living things, specifically from the animal kingdom.*

### Background information

*Scientists group living things into categories using shared characteristics, primarily into the plant and animal kingdoms. Beyond that point, we can sort, group and classify animals into vertebrates and invertebrates. We shall focus our learning on the five vertebrate groups – namely mammals, reptiles, birds, fish and amphibians.*

### Knowledge and Understanding

In this unit pupils will learn...

- How to sort and classify animals into the correct group, using shared characteristics.
- How to use classification keys to sort and group living things, including plants and insects. Children will progress to creating their own classification keys.
- About different habitats and the living things that inhabit them.
- About the effects of environmental change on animals' habitats and welfare.

### Enquiry skills and Key concepts

- To ask relevant questions and use different types of enquiries to answer them
- To make systematic and careful observations
- To gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions
- To record findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts and tables
- To report on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions

### Key Vocabulary:

**Vertebrate** – an animal with a backbone or spinal column

**Invertebrate** – an animal without a backbone

**Mammal** – a vertebrate animal that feeds its live young milk

**Reptile** – a vertebrate animal with dry scaly skin

**Amphibian** – a vertebrate animal which breathes through gills when young and lungs as an adult. Lives both in water and on land

**Bird** – a vertebrate animal with feathers and wings

**Fish** – a vertebrate animal with scales that lives in water and breathes through gills

**Warm blooded** – animals which have a constant body temperature

**Cold blooded** – animals who rely on the environment to control their body temperature

**Habitat** – the natural home environment of a living thing

**Classify** – arrange into groups according to shared characteristics