Phase 2 – Living Things and Their Habitats

Living Things

Movement
Respiration
Sensitivity
Growth
Reproduction
Excretion
Nutrition

These are the seven life processes that are common to all animals and plants.

Environmental Change

Animals are adapted to suit their environment. However if the environment changes they may no longer be able to survive and reproduce.

A change in environment can cause extinction. When a species is at risk of extinction, it is endangered. Over 1,100 animal species and over 700 plant species are classed as endangered or threatened.

Extinction can cause a decrease in biodiversity. If one species becomes extinct this can have a huge impact on the rest of the community.

Extinction can also decrease the resources available to humans. For example, some medicines are made from plants – if a plant species becomes extinct we may not be able to make the medicines anymore.

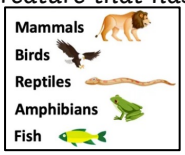
Extinction can occur naturally; however, human impact on the environment can also cause species to die out. Human activity can cause damage to the environment in several different ways, such as destroying natural habitats, over-hunting different species, climate change and pollution.

Humans often destroy forest habitats to make room for housing or industry. This is called deforestation.

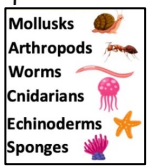
If a woodland habitat is destroyed some animals may no longer have resources they need like food and shelter. Species that aren't able to survive outside of their natural environment may become endangered.

Skeletons

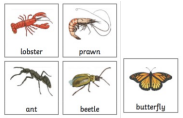
Vertebrate:
A creature that has a spine.



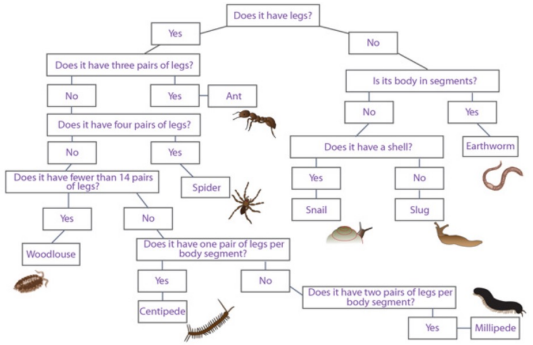
Invertebrate:
A creature that does not have a spine.



Exoskeleton: A creature with a protective structure covering the outside of their body.



Classification Key



Seirian Sumner

Seirian Sumner is a British entomologist and behavioural ecologist. She specialises in social evolution and social behaviour in insects (bees, wasps and ants).

In her work, she address questions about how and why animals live in societies. She is especially interested in social wasps and is working hard to raise the profile of these ecologically important insects.

Key Vocabulary

BIODIVERSITY: The number and variety of organisms found in an area.

CARNIVORE: An animal that eats meat.

ENTOMOLOGIST: Someone who studies insects.

EXTINCTION: When the last individual of a species dies.

HABITAT: The natural environment in which an animal or plant normally lives or grows.

HERBIVORE: An animal that only eats plants.

NUTRITION: When we eat food to give us energy.

OMNIVORE: An animal or person that eats plants and meat.