



Science focus	Living things and their habitats	Year 4	Autumn Term 1
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What? (Key Knowledge)

Living things and their habitats

Classification keys	These are used to group animals and plants in different ways. Classifying is grouping things that are similar.
MRS NERG is an acronym used to help children around the world remember what all living things do.	
M Movement	Animals usually move their whole body from one place to another, whereas plants move towards the light. Plant roots grow down into the soil towards water
R Reproduction	Animals have babies. Plants produce seeds which grow into new plants
S Sensitivity	Both plants and animals react and respond to what is happening around them, e.g. plants turn and grow towards light; animals see and hear danger and move away
N Nutrition	Green plants make their own food using sunlight, carbon dioxide and water. Animals eat plants and/or other animals
E Excretion	Plants and animals get rid of (excrete) carbon dioxide (a waste gas). Humans breathe it out. Deciduous trees get rid of waste products when their leaves fall in autumn. Animals also wee!
R Respiration	Plants and animals use oxygen (from air) to help turn food into energy.
G Growth	Baby animals grow into adult animals. Seedlings grow into bigger plants

Possible experiences

- Nature walk in Nature's nook to identify the living organisms that are present there and then to create a classification key for them.
- Use created classification keys to identify the trees and plants that are present on our school grounds or within the local area.

What? (Key Vocabulary)

Vertebrae	Animals with backbones
Mammal	An animal that breaths with lungs, babies are born live, body hair, feeds babies milk, body temperatures is the same
Amphibian	An animal that is born with gills then develops lungs, lays eggs in water, damp skin, body temperature
Invertebrate	Animals without a backbone
Habitat	Where an animal lives
Reptile	An animal that breaths with lungs, lays eggs on land, has dry scaly skin and body temperature changes

Diagrams and Symbols

