

Name That Living Thing!

Let's get sorting!



There are about nine million different types of living thing on Earth – and they are all named!
Can you write that number in figures?



Which species do you think humans are the most similar to?



In fact around 98% of chimp genes (tiny parts in all your cells which give you certain characteristics, e.g. colour of eyes, and which can be passed on to the next generation) are the same as human genes, but there are obvious differences in appearance and behaviour. Can you think of some differences?

chimps: more hairy, different shaped jaw & nose, move around on all 4 limbs, have longer arms & shorter legs

Sorting this large number of species into groups based on similarities helps people to know which living thing is being talked about. Scientists can be sure they are investigating the same species. Two, very large, groups of living things are animals and plants. We are part of the animal kingdom. These groups are however still too big (about 7.8 million animal species) so they have to be sub-divided. Animals are split into vertebrates and invertebrates. *Can anyone explain what those words mean?*

Invertebrates have no backbone (spine) and vertebrates do.



There are far more invertebrates than vertebrates – some are very simple like sponges, others are more complex like insects, spiders (arachnids) and molluscs.



Vertebrates are split again into fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.



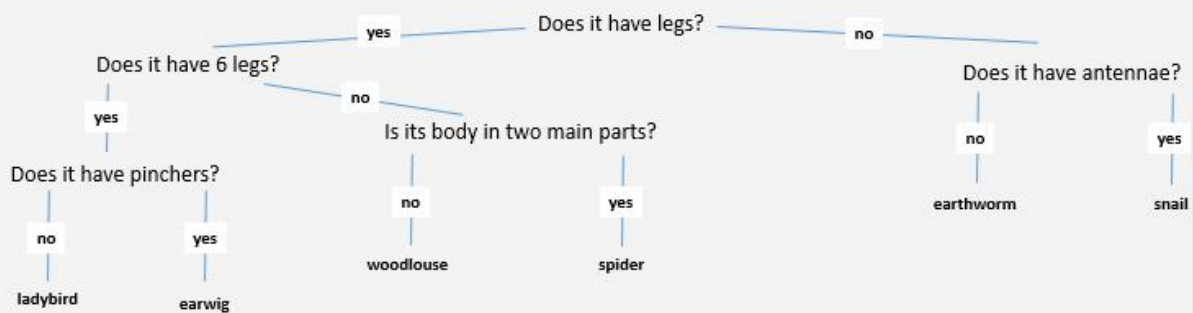
Am I a reptile or an amphibian?

Click here to watch a clip about animal classification:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zpqcfrd>

Branching database – dichotomous key

Minibeasts



Science Task for week beginning 4.05.20:

Your task this week is to make a branching database like the one above. But you're going to make one for leaves, not for minibeasts. You could use leaves you've collected yourself or the leaf pictures on the following page.

What sort of questions might you ask about leaves? The minibeast questions on the branching database above include questions about body parts and shapes. You need to include 4 questions. Perhaps you could start with one about shape? Then, perhaps, about the amount of leaves on a stalk? Remember, just like in the minibeast example, they have to be yes/no questions!



leaf ID

