LIVING THINGS and their habitats

Overview

You can remember the seven features of living things by using the acronym MRS GREN: Movement, Respiration, Sensitivity, **Growth**, **Reproduction**, Excretion, **Nutrition**

Living things live in **habitats** that suit them, and which provide for their basic needs. **Micro-habitats** are small environments where smaller lifeforms live.

Food chains show how living things depend upon one another to live.

Classification of Plants

Flowering plants grow flowers. They use **pollination** in order to **reproduce**.

Flowering plants make up about 90% of all **species** of plant.

Examples of flowering plants include: sunflowers, daffodils, orchids

Non-flowering plants do not grow flowers. They rely on seed **dispersal** in order to **reproduce**.

Non-flowering plants make up about 10% of all species of plant.

Examples of non-flowering plants include: ferns, mosses, conifer, seaweed

Classification Keys

Classification keys are one way to classify animals into different groups.

Does it have feathers?

yes — no

Does it have webbed feet?

yes — no

Does it lay eggs?

yes — no
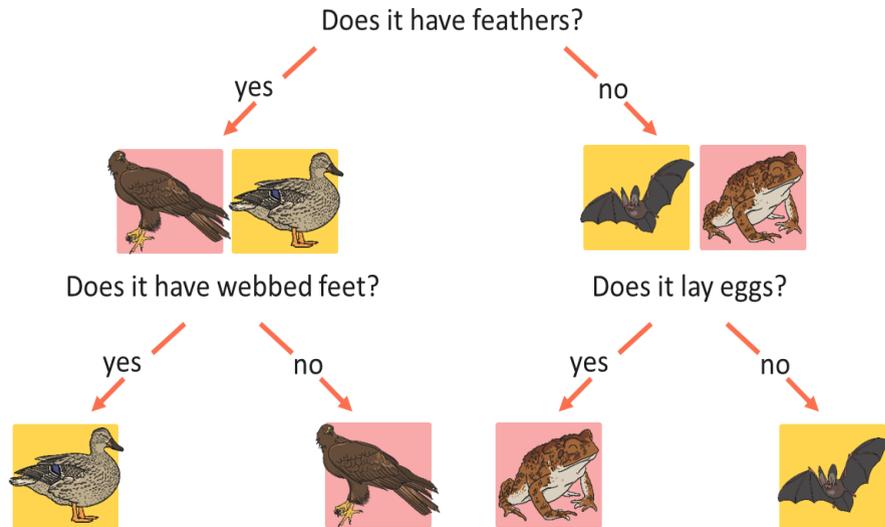
Invertebrates

Snails have shells. They have a large muscular foot, which secretes mucus. Their stomach is directly above their muscular foot. Most snails live underwater.
Slugs do not have shells. They have a large muscular foot, which secretes mucus. Their stomach is directly above their muscular foot.
Worms have long, narrow bodies. Worms do not have limbs (arms and legs). They are bilaterally symmetrical (both sides the same).
Spiders have eight legs. Spiders bodies are made of two main parts. Spiders create silk from their spinneret glands. Spiders lay eggs.
Insects have exoskeletons: hard shell-like coverings of their body. They also have three main body parts. They have antennae on the top of their heads.

Positive and negative effects on our environment

Habitats can change over time, which may present animals and plant life with difficulties.

Some of these changes are natural, e.g:

- The seasons: temperatures rise in the summer and fall in winter. This means that some animals may need to **migrate** or **hibernate**.
- Increased (floods) or decreased (droughts) rainfall can also impact on a habitat.

Other habitat changes are man-made, e.g:

- Harvesting fossil fuels, deforestation, dredging rivers, bottom trawling, urbanization, filling in wetlands and mowing fields.
- **Pollution** is thought to be impacting on many habitats and is a major cause of **climate change**.

Vertebrates – **Have backbones**

Invertebrates – **Have no backbones**

Mammals   Reptiles   Amphibians   Fish   Birds   Snails   Slugs   Worms   Spiders   Insects