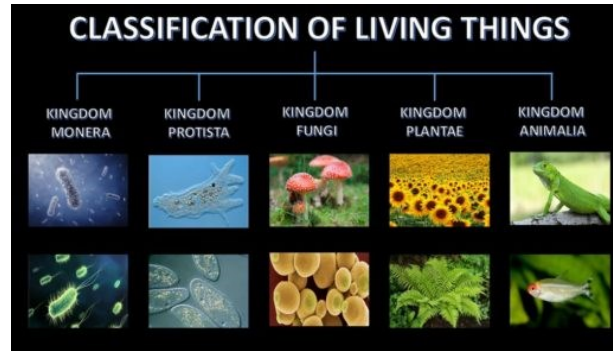


Living things can be formally grouped according to characteristics. Plants and animals are two main groups but there are other living things that do not fit into these groups e.g. micro-organisms such as bacteria and yeast, and toadstools and mushrooms. Plants can make their own food whereas animals cannot.



Animals can be divided into two main groups: those that have backbones (vertebrates); and those that do not (invertebrates).

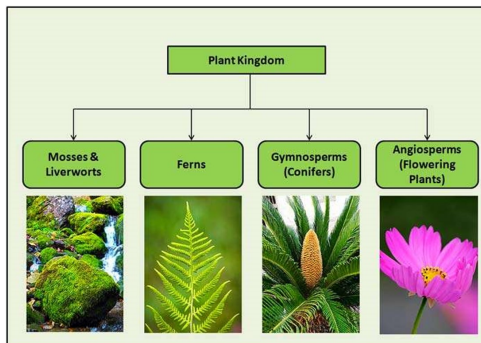


Vertebrates can be divided into five small groups: fish; amphibians; reptiles; birds; and mammals.

Invertebrates can be divided into a number of groups, including insects, spiders, snails and worms.

Each group has common characteristics.

Plants can be divided broadly into two main groups: flowering plants; and non-flowering plants.



In 1735, Swedish Scientist Carl Linnaeus published a system for classifying all living things. An adapted version of this system is still used today: The Linnaean System. He is known as the Father of Taxonomy.

<b>vertebrates</b>	Animals that have a backbone
<b>fish</b>	Breathes with gills/lays eggs in water/has fins and scales/its body temperature
<b>amphibians</b>	Born with gills then develops lungs/lays eggs in water/damp skin/body temperature changes
<b>reptiles</b>	Breathes with lungs/lays eggs on land/dry scaly skin/body temperature changes
<b>birds</b>	Breathes with lungs/lays eggs with hard shells/has feathers/steady body temperature
<b>mammals</b>	Breathes with lungs/babies are born live/body hair or fur/steady body temperature
<b>invertebrates</b>	Animals that do not have a backbone.
<b>insects</b>	3 body sections/6 legs
<b>spiders</b>	2 body sections/8 legs
<b>snails</b>	One slimy foot and a hard shell.
<b>worms</b>	Soft, long body that is round or flattened and usually lacks limbs
<b>flowering</b>	Plants that grow flowers to help them
<b>non-flowering</b>	Plants that do not grow flowers but reproduce in other ways. e.g spores, seeds in cones.

Taxonomists are scientists that use classification keys to classify living things.

