

Biology

Chapter 1 Living Things

Biology is the study of life and living things. Living things are divided into plants and animals. Plants can make their own food but cannot move about. Animals cannot make their own food but are able to move about.

The seven characteristics of living things

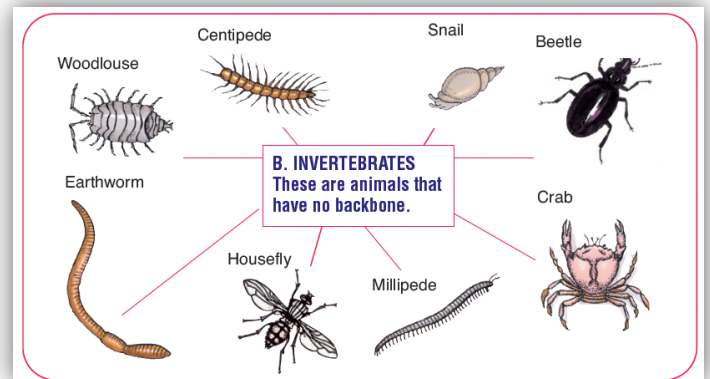
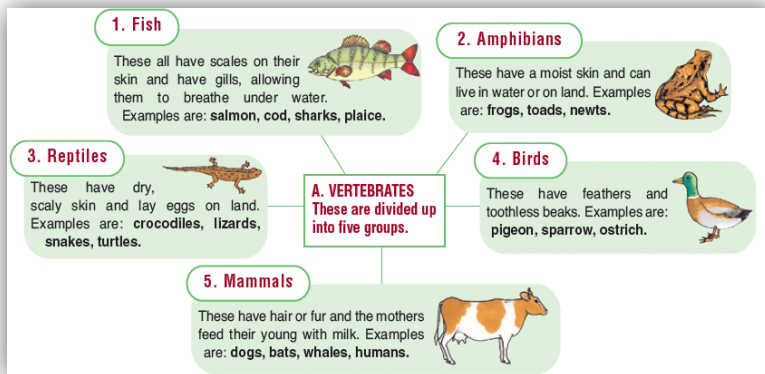
- ✓ **Movement** Living things are able to move about, animals more so than plants.
- ✓ **Respiration** This is the release of energy from food.
- ✓ **Sensitivity** This is the ability to sense changes in the surroundings.
- ✓ **Nutrition** This is getting and using food.
- ✓ **Excretion** Getting rid of waste produced from metabolism.
- ✓ **Reproduction** Making more of the same living thing.
- ✓ **Growth** All living things grow.

Classification of Living Things

Living things are divided up into two main groups known as **plants** and **animals**. Animals are sub-divided into two main categories:

- **Vertebrates:** These are animals with a backbone.
- **Invertebrates:** These are animals with no backbone.

Animals are important in the following areas:



agriculture, medicine, leisure and mariculture. Plants such as flax, wheat, buttercup, beech and poppies are useful in the areas of agriculture and medicine.

A Biological Key

A key is a chart that asks you a series of questions which allow you to identify the name of a plant or animal, an example of a biological key is shown on the right.

