St Saviour's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Subject: Science		
Topic: Living Things and their Habitats	**Year: 4**	**Strand: Biology**

What should I already know?

- There are different living things that exist today.
- Living things have a specific place where they can live.
- Animals have features that help them to survive in a particualr area.
- Some living things are endangered and some are now extinct.
- You can group animals into different groups depending on their features.

What am I going to learn?

- Living things are also known as **'organisms'.**
- All living things do certain things to stay alive. These are called life processes. They are: **M**ovement, **R**espiration, **S**ensitivity, **G**rowth, **R**eproduction, **E**xcretion and **N**utrition.
- Vertebrates are animals with a backbone. They have a hard skeleton made of bone. It holds their body up and gives them shape.
- Invertebrates do not have a backbone, or a skeleton made of bones. Many have a hard shell outside their bodies to protect them. Others have soft, flexible bodies.
- Vertebrates can be separated into five broad groups: mammal, fish, reptile, bird and amphibian.
- Invertebrates are classified into: insects, annelids, protozoa, crustaceans, molluscs, arachnids and echinoderms.
- The characteristics of a living thing are what make it similar or different to other living things.
- To stay alive and healthy, you and all other living things need certain conditions that let them carry out the 7 life processes: food and water, space to move, grow and have young, air and oxygen and shelter and safety.
- Habitats can change for many different reasons. Some of these changes are natural such as earthquakes, storms, floods, hurricanes, wildfires and droughts.
- Man made changes to the environment include deforestation, pollution, urbanisation and invasive species.

Vocabulary

Characteristic: A feature or quality belonging typically to a person, place, or thing which helps to identify them.

Classification: A category into which something is put.

Conservation: The act of keeping and protecting from waste, loss, or destruction.

Habitat: The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

Invertebrate: An animal that does not have a backbone or skeleton inside its body.

Organism: An individual living thing, such as a plant, an animal, or a germ.

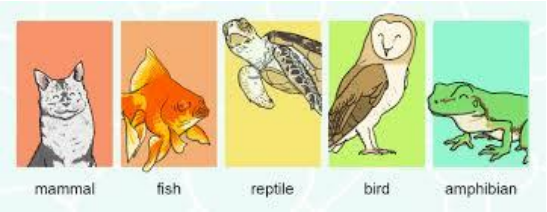
Specimen: A part or example used to represent a larger whole.

Species: A group of living things that can mate with one another but not with those of other groups.

Variation: The differences between individuals within a species. This can be caused by inherited or environmental factors.

Vertebrates: An animal that has a skeleton with a backbone inside its body.

Wildlife: Wild animals that live free of humans.



Useful websites

- https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/search/living-things/
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z6wwxnb
- https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-habitat
- https://www.worldwildlife.org/