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DIVERSITY: Diversity of Living Things

CHAPTER ANALYSIS



4 KEY CONCEPTS

- Show an awareness of biodiversity as the variety of life on earth
- Show an awareness that bacteria can have beneficial or harmful effects
- Recognise importance of biodiversity to the stability of natural systems, and its benefits to humans
- Discuss the reasons for the depletion or extinction of some plants or animals



1 ADVANCED CONCEPTS

• Construct and use simplified dichotomous keys in identifying and classifying living things

CLASSIFYING LIVING THINGS

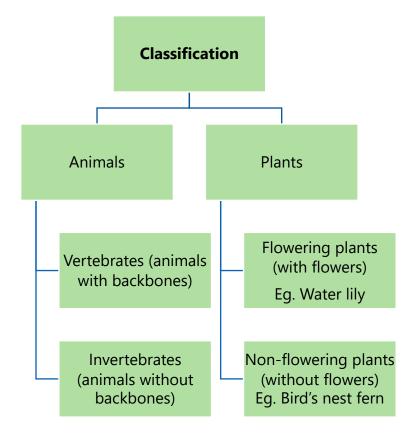




CLASSIFYING LIVING THINGS

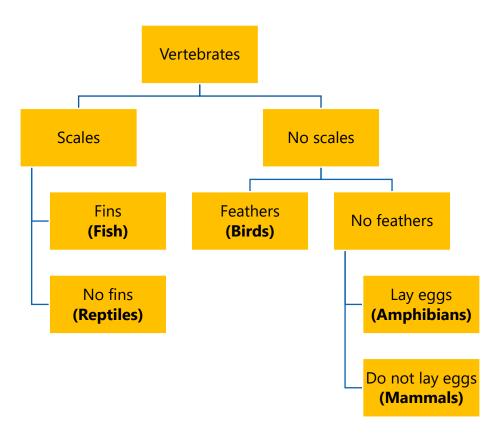
Classification helps us to:

- Group living things according to similar features
- See similarities and differences between living things
- Identifying living things





CLASSIFYING VERTEBRATES



DICHOTOMOUS KEY

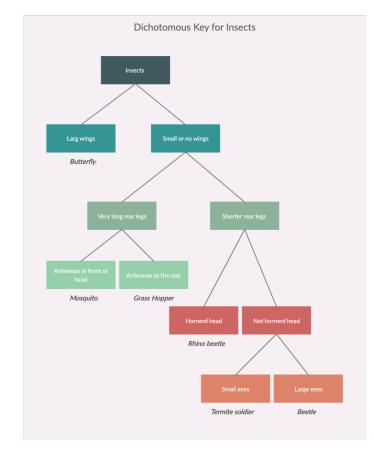
DICHOTOMOUS KEY

A dichotomous key is a method used to classify objects into specific categories based on their characteristics.

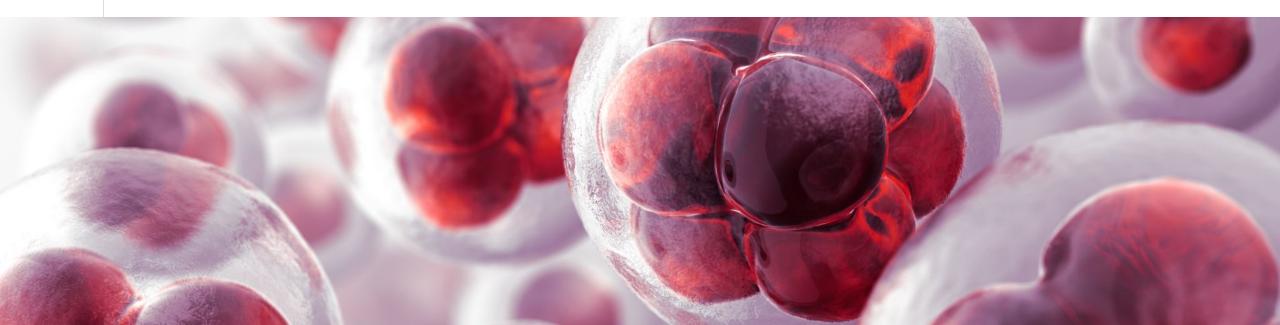
Plants and animals are identified by dividing them into **two** smaller groups at each group.

- At each step, you just have to answer 'yes' or 'no' to the question.

Example



BACTERIA





BACTERIA

How is bacteria helpful?

Health

- Many bacteria are found in our digestive system, which help in the digestion of many kinds of food
- Some bacteria can help prevent disease-causing bacteria from attaching themselves to our intestines
- Some bacteria are responsible for production of vitamins in the body

Decomposition

 Bacteria in the soil help to break down dead organisms into smaller substances that plants absorb and use for growth

Food production

 Bacteria that cause milk to become sour are used to produce cheese and yoghurt

How is bacteria harmful?

- Some bacteria cause diseases including cholera, tuberculosis, and sexually-transmitted infections (STIs)
- Bacteria can cause food to decay and go 'bad'
- Some bacteria get onto food where they release harmful substances that cause food poisoning

IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is important as it:

- Benefits our lives
- Helps to keep the natural environment stable



IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

HOW DOES BIODIVERSITY BENEFIT US?

The earth's plants and animals provide us with things we cannot live without, such as food, medicine, and raw materials.

- Sheep provide us with wool to make woolen clothes
- Cows provide us with leather to make belts, bags, and milk and beef for food
- Trees provide wood to make furniture and build houses

HOW DOES BIODIVERSITY KEEP THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STABLE?

A **stable environment** is one where the plants and animals in it change very little, or one that recovers quickly following a change (eg. From a fire or flood)

Resistance to disease

In a diverse environment, if one species is affected in some way, others not affected can take its place.

 Farms with just one kind of crop (eg. Wheat) can be completely destroyed by a disease or a pest

Removing dead matter

Bacteria in soil attack dead matter and break them down into simpler substances (decomposition). These substances provide nutrients for plants.

Fishing

The fishing waters of Alaska contain a variety of species of salmon. This diversity ensures that the fishing waters remain stable and healthy.

Stability of the atmosphere

Photosynthesis: green plants absorb carbon dioxide and give out oxygen that animals need for breathing

With many trees and forests, the supply of both gases in the atmosphere remain stable.



REASONS FOR BECOMING ENDANGERED

Habitat loss

A habitat is the natural home of an organism. Common cause of habitat loss: deforestation

Invasive species

An invasive species refers to organisms that do not normally live alongside native species

Diseases

Diseases can kill plants and animals, causing them to become endangered

Hunting

People hunt and kill animals for food and their body parts. The over-hunting and over-fishing of animals can lead them to become endangered or extinct.



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Need help?

Choong Han Jun

97839558 (Whatsapp)

@hanjunn
(telegram username)

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