Year 4: Science Autumn 2

Living things and their habitats

Key Knowledge

- A habitat is the natural place where a living thing lives and provides the food, water, shelter and space it needs to survive.
- Different habitats, such as woodlands, ponds, oceans and deserts, provide different conditions for plants and animals.
- Living things depend on their habitats and on one another for survival.
- Changes to a habitat can affect the plants and animals that live there.
- Animals can be classified into groups according to their shared characteristics and features.
- Vertebrates have a backbone and can be grouped into mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.
- Invertebrates do not have a backbone.
- Classification keys use a series of questions about observable features to help identify and name living things.
- Animals have adaptations, such as camouflage, webbed feet and thick fur, that help them survive in their habitats.
- Pond plants and animals have different characteristics and adaptations that help them survive in a freshwater habitat.

Key Vocabulary

Habitat	The natural place where a plant or animal lives.
Characteristics	The features or qualities that describe a living thing.
Classification	Sorting living things into groups based on their similarities and differences.
Organism	Any living thing, such as a plant, animal or microorganism.
Environment	The surroundings and conditions in which living things live.
Vertebrate	An animal that has a backbone.
Invertebrate	An animal that does not have a backbone.
Classification key	A series of questions, often with yes or no answers, used to identify and group living things.
Adaptation	A feature or behaviour that helps a living thing survive in its habitat.
Camouflage	Colours or patterns that help an animal blend into its surroundings.

Learning questions

What is a habitat and why is it important?

How do living things depend on their habitats for survival?

How can animals be classified using shared characteristics?

How do classification keys help scientists identify organisms?

How do animals adapt to survive in different environments?

How can pond plants and animals be classified and compared?

