

**Starter:      Odd one out**



Discuss each picture.  
Which is the odd one out and why?

Stick the pictures into your book and write your ideas around them.

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## Starter: Odd one out



It is often confusing to explain how we know if something is living and if it is non-living. Movement could indicate that something is living, but not necessarily. All three of the objects in these images move in some way but not all are living. The images are a bluebottle fly, a tree and an aeroplane flying through cloud. Bluebottle flies are also called 'blow flies' and are often seen hovering around dustbins. Just like butterflies, flies can taste with their feet! There are over 100,000 different species of flies.

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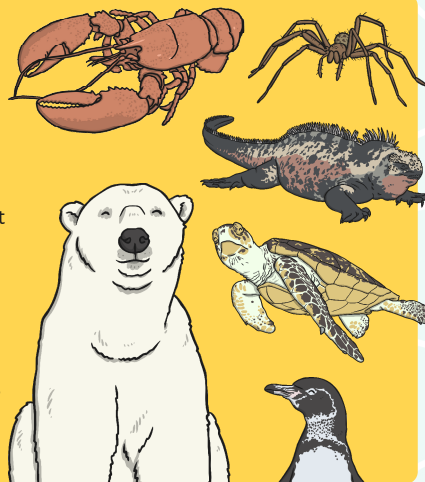
## Characteristics

Today we are going to create our own branching keys to identify living things by looking at their characteristics.

The characteristics of a living thing are what make it similar or different to other living things.


All species of living thing have a unique set of characteristics.

Species with similar characteristics are put into groups. This is how we classify living things.



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## Characteristics



- Is awake
- Has fur
- Is cute
- Has four legs
- Has whiskers
- Has a tail
- Is a carnivore
- Is a baby
- Likes milk
- Plays with string

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## Characteristics



These are some of the characteristics of the domestic cat:

- Has whiskers
- Has four legs
- Has fur
- Is a carnivore
- Has a tail

These are **not** characteristics of the species:


- Is awake
- Is cute
- Likes milk
- Is a baby
- Plays with string

**Why not?**

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## Characteristics



What are the characteristics of this living thing?





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## Characteristics



What are the characteristics of this living thing?




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## Characteristics



What are the characteristics of this living thing?



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## Activity 1



Research these 8 living things.

Record which living thing has each characteristic by putting a tick or a cross in the table on your activity sheet.

**★ Woodland Habitat Classification**

Record which living thing has each characteristic by putting a tick or a cross in the table. Write your own questions in the last two boxes of the table.

	bluebell	badger	owl	woodpecker	hedgehog	oak tree	ant	earthworm
Does it have wings?								
Is it a vertebrate?								
Does it have legs?								
Does it have a trunk?								
Does it have spines?								

twinkl planit Source: Year 4 Living Things and Their Habitats Classification from Lesson 4

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## Classification Keys

You are going to create a classification key to sort your living things.  
Look carefully at these living things. What question could you ask to split them into two groups?




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## Classification Keys

Is it a vertebrate?

yes



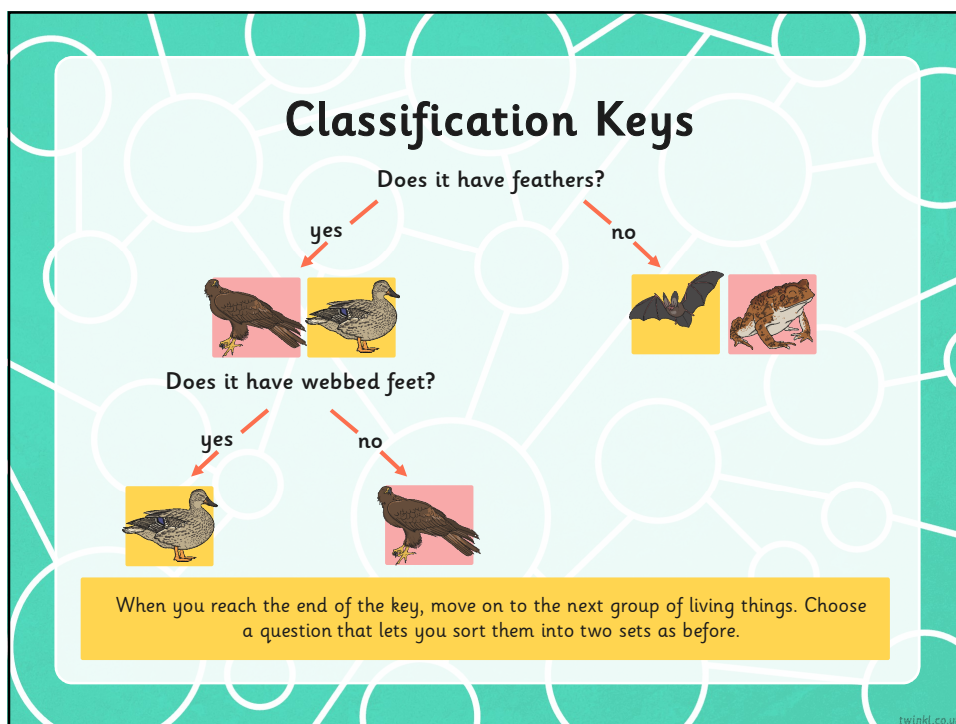
no



Choose one set of living things.  
What question could you ask to split these living things into two groups?

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## Activity 2



Have a go at arranging your living things into classification keys by choosing questions that let you split each group into two.

Write your questions on sticky notes and draw arrows to show how you move down the key.

Use the questions on your classification tables as a starting point if you need to.

Be sure to test your key at the end to make sure that the path works correctly for each living thing.

**Look at your knowledge organiser for ideas.**



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## Testing and Evaluating



Follow the path that leads to each living thing.

Does each path work correctly?

Do the questions used in the key describe the characteristics of the living things?

What could make this key better?

What has been done well?



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