

Living Things and Their Habitats

Key Vocabulary	
organism	' Organism ' is another way to refer to a living thing.
habitat	A habitat is the specific area or place in which particular animals or plants may live.
environment	The environment is the natural world, either as a whole or in a particular area.
species	A species is a group of living things that share enough similarities to be able to breed and produce young capable of breeding.
endangered species	An endangered species is a species that is at risk of extinction.
extinct	' Extinct ' means that a species has no more members alive.
classification	Classification is the process of grouping living things according to their similarities.
warm-blooded	' Warm-blooded ' refers to animals that are able to generate their own body heat.

Vertebrate or Invertebrate?		
Animals can be grouped into one of two main groups: vertebrates and invertebrates. Vertebrate animals have a spine (also known as a backbone). The spine helps to hold the body upright, protects the spinal column and allows the body to move. Invertebrates do not have a spine. 		
Vertebrates can be sorted into five main groups with their own characteristics.		
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles
warm-blooded give birth to live young produce milk have hair or fur 	warm-blooded lay eggs have feathers have wings and a beak 	cold-blooded lay eggs have scales 
Amphibians		Fish
cold-blooded lay spawn often undergo metamorphosis 		cold-blooded have scales lay spawn live in water 



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cold-blooded	' Cold-blooded ' refers to animals that are not able to generate their own body heat.
vertebrate	A vertebrate is an animal that has a spine.
invertebrate	An invertebrate is an animal that does not have a spine.
characteristic	A characteristic is a particular feature or quality that is specific to an individual or species .
metamorphosis	Metamorphosis is the process by which certain animals completely change their appearance and body structure.

Habitats

Plants and animals rely on their **habitats** to give them the conditions they need to live. **Habitats** can change, both naturally and due to human actions. These actions can have positive and negative effects on the animals that live there.

Changes can make it easier or harder for living things to survive in the **habitat**. **Organisms** can become **endangered** or even be made **extinct** due to changes in their **habitats**.

Invertebrates can be sorted into many different groups. Here are four of them.

Arthropods

have an exoskeleton
have jointed legs
include insects, arachnids,
crustaceans, myriapods



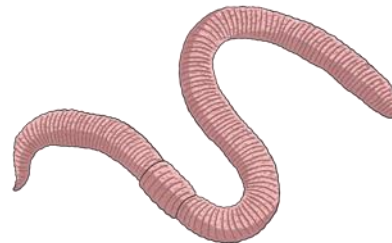
Molluscs

have a soft body with a head
and a foot region
often have a shell



Annelids

have no legs
have segmented bodies



Echinoderms

have spiny or lumpy skin
live in the ocean

