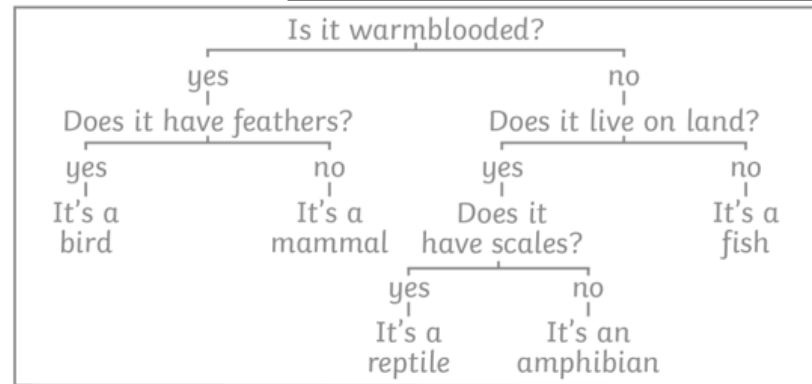


Key Vocabulary	
characteristics	Special qualities or appearances that make something different to others.
classify	To sort things into different groups.
vertebrates	Animals with a backbone: mammals, fish, birds, reptiles & amphibians
invertebrates	Animals without a backbone: insects, spiders, worms, slugs & snails.
plants	Flowering, conifers, ferns and mosses.
microorganism	Can only be seen with a microscope.
key	A key is a series of questions about the characteristics of living things. A key is used to identify a living thing or decide which group it belongs to by answering 'yes' or 'no' questions.



Classification

In 1735, Swedish Scientist Carl Linnaeus first published a system for **classifying** all living things. An adapted version of this system is still used today: The Linnaeus System.



Living things can be **classified** by these eight levels. The number of living things in each level gets smaller until the one animal is left in its species level. This is how a dog would be classified.

Domain: Eukarya	jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, ladybird, daisy, rabbit, fox
Kingdom: Animals	jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, ladybird, rabbit, fox
Phylum: Chordata	jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, rabbit, fox
Class: Mammals	jackal, cat, dog, rabbit, fox
Order: Carnivore	jackal, cat, dog, fox
Family: Canidae	jackal, dog, fox
Genus: Canis	jackal, dog
Species: Lupus	dog

Each group allows scientists to observe and understand the **characteristics** of living things more clearly. They group similar things together then split the groups again and again based on their differences.

