Living Things and Their Habitats

Scientific Terminology

Objectives

Carl Linneaus

Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways

Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment

Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

Scientist: Carl Linneaus 1707-1778

Carolus Linnaeus was a Swedish scientist who devised a new way of classifying living things into groups. Linnaeus proposed that the whole of nature could be classified into three kingdoms: plants, animals and minerals. Each kingdom was then split into progressively smaller groups or levels.

For example, Linnaeus placed the animal kingdom into six initial groups: mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, insects and worms.
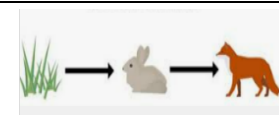
Consumer- a consumer is an organism that eats other living things to get energy

Classification key- a tool used to group and identify living things (or other objects) by asking a series of yes/no questions about their characteristics

Food chain - the order in which living things depend on each other for food and how they get their food and energy.

Deforestation- is when humans cut down or burn down large areas of forests to make space for farmland, land or to use the trees as fuel.

Environment- is the world, including plants and animals, that surrounds us and the conditions we live in. Humans can have an impact on their environment by how they live and what they do.

Organism- is any living thing, from the smallest bacteria to the humongous blue whale.

Predator- an animal that hunts and eats another animal for food and ultimately, energy.

Producer- an organism, typically a plant, that makes its own food using photosynthesis.

Questions

1)What is a producer?
2) What should food chains begin with?
3) What is a predator?
4) What is deforestation and how can this impact wildlife and habitats?
5) What is the producer in this food chain: tree → caterpillar → bird?
6) Why is a classification key a helpful tool?
7) Share an example of a flowering and a non-flowering plant.
8) What do the letters in MRS NERG stand for to help us explain the seven characteristics of living things?
9) How can we group animals?
10) Is a plant a living thing? How do you know?

Habitats

A **habitat** is where a **living thing lives**. **Habitats provide** things that living things need for **life**, such as **food, water and air**.

Examples of micro-habitats:
- flower beds
- trees
- bushes
- under rocks/logs
- ponds
- in the grass

Examples of large habitats:
- desert
- mountains
- polar regions
- jungle
- ocean
- savannah

Grouping Animals

We can group animals into **five different groups** based on their characteristics.

Fish   Mammal   Reptile   Amphibian   Bird