

Questacon at HOME

Year 3 Activity sheet

Classification of Living Things

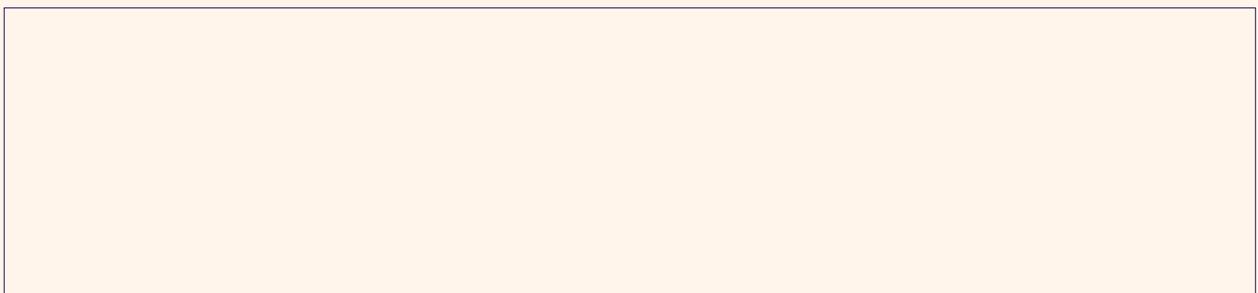
Bugs, birds and mammals are all living things, but how do we explain the differences between them? Do you know what it means to be an invertebrate? What about a vertebrate? This activity sheet is going to test your understanding of classification of living things!

Q1. What does 'classification' mean? Check the correct answer.

- Drawing a picture of different living things
- Assigning living things to random groups
- Assigning living things to groups based on shared features
- Observing living things in their natural habitat

ACTIVITY – Bug Hunt!

See if you can find a bug outside. Draw a picture of it in the box. Have a good look at its features and write them in the space below. Would you classify it in the same group as a dog? Why/Why not? What is different about them?



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Q2. What is an invertebrate?

- An animal with 6 legs
- An animal with antennae
- An animal that flies
- An animal with no backbone

Q3. Which of these animals is NOT an invertebrate?

- Octopus
- Snake
- Snail
- Spider

Q4. Which of these animals is NOT a vertebrate?

- Mammal
- Bird
- Mollusk
- Reptile
- Fish
- Amphibian

Q5. Imagine you are a scientist, who has just been presented with a mountain goat and a giant horned lizard to classify. Which of the following is true?

- They are both cold blooded
- They both have fur
- They both have horns
- They both eat bugs

Next time you go for a walk, try thinking about things that are similar and different between different animals and bugs that you see.



Classification of Living Things – Answers

Q1. What does 'classification' mean? Check the correct answer.

Assigning living things to groups based on shared features

These shared features can be features like how many legs they have, whether their backbone is inside or outside their body, whether they lay eggs or not.

Can you think of any other features that could be used to classify things into different groups?

Q2. What is an invertebrate?

An animal with no backbone

Invertebrates have no backbone! The most common example of invertebrates live in your backyard – bugs.

Q3. Which of these animals is NOT an invertebrate?

Snake – snakes and reptiles have a long backbone down their entire body.

Q4. Which of these animals is NOT a vertebrate?

Mollusk – Mollusks are not vertebrates, because they don't have a backbone. Mollusks include animals like snails.

Q5. Imagine you are a scientist, who has just been presented with a mountain goat and a giant horned lizard to classify. Which of the following is true?

They both have horns – When we classify living things into groups, we need to ask questions about what is common between them.

In this case, both the mountain goat AND the giant horned lizard have horns.

