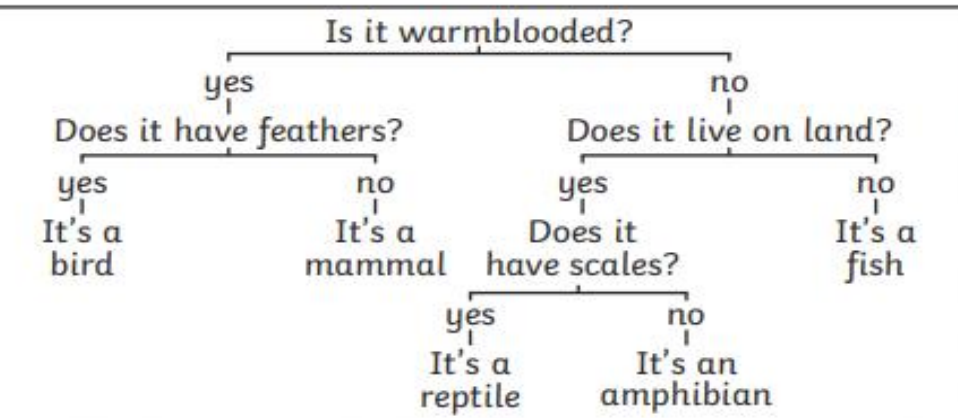


Key Vocabulary

characteristics	Special qualities or appearances that make an individual or group of things different to others.
classify	To sort things into different groups.
taxonomist	A scientist who classifies different living things into categories.
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.

Scientists, called Taxonomists, sort and group living things according to their similarities and differences.



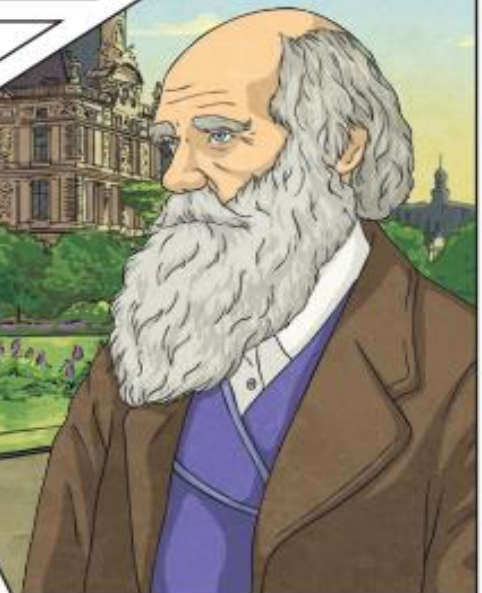
Classification

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: Animalia	jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, ladybird, rabbit, fox
Phylum: Chordata	jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, rabbit, fox
Class: Mammalia	jackal, cat, dog, rabbit, fox
Order: Carnivora	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.