	Year	4	Topic	Living things and their habitats
	• 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.			

Prior learning	Future learning
• Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. (Y1 - Plants) • Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees. (Y1 - Plants) • Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. (Y1 - Animals including humans) • Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets). (Y1 – Animals, including humans) • Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats. (Y2 - Living things and their habitats)	• Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. (Y5 - Living things and their habitats) • Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. (Y5 - Living things and their habitats) • Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals. (Y6 - Living things and their habitats) • Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics. (Y6 - Living things and their habitats)

WHAT PUPILS NEED TO KNOW OR DO TO BE SECURE	
Show understanding of a concept using scientific vocabulary correctly	
Key learning	**Possible evidence**
Living things can be grouped (classified) in different ways according to their features. Classification keys can be used to identify and name living things. Living things live in a habitat which provides an environment to which they are suited (Year 2 learning). These environments may change naturally e.g. through flooding, fire, earthquakes etc. Humans also cause the environment to change. This can be in a good way (i.e. positive human impact, such as setting up nature reserves) or in a bad way (i.e. negative human impact, such as littering). These environments also change with the seasons; different living things can be found in a habitat at different times of the year.	• Can name living things living in a range of habitats, giving the key features that helped them to identify them • Can give examples of how an environment may change both naturally and due to human impact

Key vocabulary	
Classification, classification keys, environment, habitat, human impact, positive, negative, migrate, hibernate	

Common misconceptions

Some children may think:

- the death of one of the parts of a food chain or web has no or limited consequences on the rest of the chain
- there is always plenty of food for wild animals
- animals are only land-living creatures
- animals and plants can adapt to their habitats, however they change
- all changes to habitats are negative.

Apply knowledge in familiar related contexts, including a range of enquiries

Activities	Possible evidence
• Observe plants and animals in different habitats throughout the year. • Compare and contrast the living things observed. • Use classification keys to name unknown living things. • Classify living things found in different habitats based on their features. • Create a simple identification key based on observable features. • Use fieldwork to explore human impact on the local environment e.g. litter, tree planting. • Use secondary sources to find out about how environments may naturally change. • Use secondary sources to find out about human impact, both positive and negative, on environments.	• Can keep a careful record of living things found in different habitats throughout the year (diagrams, tally charts etc.) • Can use classification keys to identify unknown plants and animals • Can present their learning about changes to the environment in different ways e.g. campaign video, persuasive letter

Working Scientifically

Year 4: Living things and their habitats

Classifying

- Based on the children's own criteria:
  - classify a number of living things in their local environment (plants and animals)
  - classify a number of living things in the wider environment (plants and animals) after completing research
  - introduce branching databases/dichotomous keys.

Observing over time: The children make systematic and careful observations.
They use a range of equipment for measuring length, time, temperature and capacity. They use standard units for their measurements.

- Observe living things in their local environment at different times of the year.

Pattern seeking: The children consider their prior knowledge when asking questions. They independently use a range of question stems. Where appropriate, they answer these questions.

- Do animals with …. have ….?
- Do plants with …. have ….?

Comparative/Fair testing

- Not relevant

Researching: Given a range of resources, the children decide for themselves how to gather evidence to answer the question. They recognise when secondary sources can be used to answer questions that cannot be answered through practical work. They identify the type of enquiry that they have chosen to answer their question.

- Research and be able to name plants and animals in the wider environment e.g. polar, desert, jungle, etc.
- Research global environmental issues and their impact on living things.