Classifying Organisms

Classification describes how we can sort all **organisms** (living things) into groups.

Animals and plants belong to different groups.

Plants can be separated into two groups: **flowering** and **nonflowering** .

Animals can be separated into **vertebrates** and **invertebrates** .

Vertebrates

Vertebrates have **endoskeletons** (internal skeletons). Vertebrates can be placed into one of five groups: mammals, birds, fish, reptiles or amphibians.

Invertebrates

Invertebrates do not have endoskeletons. Slugs, snails, insects, worms and spiders are all invertebrates.

Invertebrates have **exoskeletons** or **hydrostatic skeletons** .

Exoskeletons are hard, rigid outer coverings on the outside of the body, and can be found in crabs and beetles.

Hydrostatic skeletons are fluid-filled compartments, like those in a worm or a jellyfish.

Biodiversity

- Biodiversity is all the different living things in an area.
- Biodiversity is important because:

  Humans rely on biodiversity for food, medicines and other resources.

  Living things rely on each other for resources – this is called **interdependence** .

  It is important for good soil health.

  It is good for our mental well-being.
- Biodiversity is threatened by humans. We remove habitats, cause climate change, hunt animals and reduce biodiversity using some agricultural practices.