

Classifying Organisms

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

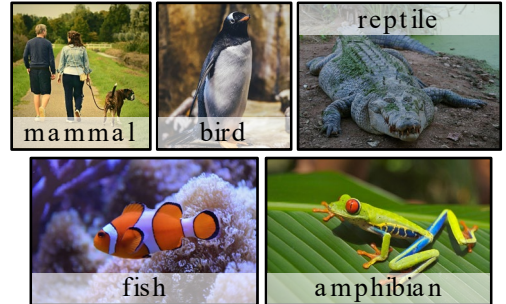
Animals and plants belong to different groups.

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

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

Vertebrates

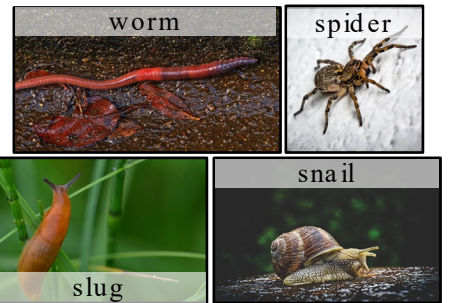
Vertebrates have **endoskeletons** (internal skeletons). Vertebrates can be placed into one of five groups: mammals, birds, fish, reptiles or amphibians.



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.

