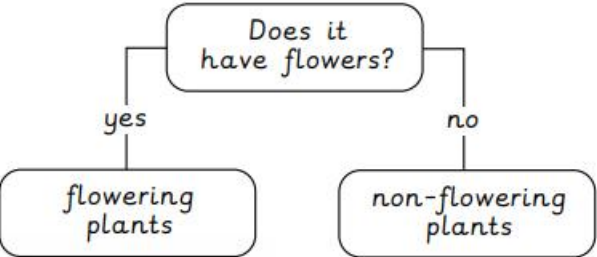


Classifications and changing habitats.

Living things can be sorted and identified with a tool called a **classification key**, which uses a series of yes/no questions:



Taxonomists are scientists who sort, group, identify and name living things.



Conservationists are scientists who protect and restore habitats. They are working to reverse negative human impacts.

Habitats can change because of negative human impacts:

- Plastic pollution is building up in our seas, hurting animals that get trapped in or ingest it.
- Climate change, caused by human activities, is heating up the Earth, disrupting habitats and affecting species survival.
- Coral bleaching, resulting from increased sea temperatures, makes it difficult for coral and the animals that live there to survive.
- Deforestation involves cutting down large areas of forest, destroying the habitats of many plants and animals.

Habitats can change due to natural disasters:

- Earthquakes can make mountains change shape. They can also cause volcanoes to erupt, destroy animals' shelters and uproot plants.
- Wildfires can destroy large areas, burning all the plants. This can cause animals to die or lose their homes.
- Floods can make plants waterlogged or uproot them. They can wash away soil, destroy animals' shelters and cause animals to drown. Floods can also spread disease.

Conservationists help by:

- Studying nature.
- Protecting and restoring habitats.
- Cleaning up pollution.
- Fighting climate change.
- Helping endangered species.
- Making laws and rules to protect the environment.
- Educating others about the environment.

Living things can be **classified** into different **groups** according to their shared **characteristics**:

Animals **without backbones** are classified as **invertebrates**. They include the following groups:

worms	snails and slugs	insects	spiders
			

Animals **with backbones** are classified as **vertebrates**. They include the following groups:

fish	amphibians	reptiles	birds	mammals
				