

Further Classification

Invertebrates

Invertebrates can be grouped based on their characteristics.

Group	Features
Molluscs	Internal or external shell and a muscular foot.
Echinoderms	Five-part symmetry. Often have a hard spiny covering.
Sponges	No organs, very simple animals.
Cnidaria	Distinct body shape (medusa or polyp). Have nematocysts (stinging cells).
Annelid	Segmented body and movable bristles.
Platyhelminthes	Flat bodies.
Arthropods	Segmented bodies and exoskeletons. There are four main types: insects, arachnids, crustaceans and myriapods.

Plants

Plants can be grouped into mosses, ferns, conifers and flowering plants. Mosses and ferns reproduce with spores, whereas conifers and flowering plants produce seeds. Mosses do not have a xylem or flower (all other groups do).

Key vocabulary

- **classification** (noun): sorting or grouping things according to their characteristics.
- **exoskeleton**: (noun) a skeleton that is on the outside of the body.

Fungi

Fungi are different to plants and animals. They cannot make their own food (like animals) and cannot move (like plants). Some **fungi** are microorganisms (yeast), but not all are (mushrooms).

Microorganisms

Microorganisms are organisms that are so small that we cannot see them with our eyes alone. Bacteria and viruses are examples of microorganisms.

Some bacteria can cause disease. Others are helpful, like those that help break down food in our digestive system, or the bacteria we use to make yoghurt and cheese.

