

Further classification

Invertebrates

Invertebrates into groups 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, 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) but cannot move (like plants) Some **fungi** are microorganisms (yeast), but not all are (mushrooms).

Micro organisms

Micro-organisms 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.

