# Classifying Organisms

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

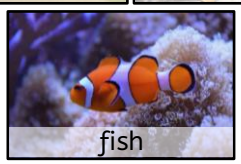
Animals and plants belong to different groups.

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 essential 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.