

Domain: Classification of Animals		Year: 4
Domain overview		
<p>This domain will introduce pupils to the classification of animals. Pupils will observe and describe characteristics of animals. They will explore a range of animal groups and realise what makes them similar and what makes them different. Pupils will learn about five groups of vertebrates, why scientists classify animals into groups, and the characteristics by which they make these determinations. The ability to classify information is an essential skill for organising, analysing, and understanding data. Pupils will develop scientific skills as they observe and practice identifying important characteristics of organisms and objects. Additionally, pupils will keep a record of what they learn in a Classification Journal. Throughout the domain, pupils will add to this journal that will be displayed and used as a reference. They will also engage in a structured inquiry discussion or exercise. When pupils engage in these activities they will respond based on their observation and thinking about a range of questions.</p>		
Key Vocabulary		
<p>Characteristics, classify, invertebrates, kingdom, organisms, taxonomy, vertebrates, bask, cold-blooded, constant, estivate, huddle, internal, regulate, warm-blooded, cartilage, column, crustacean, exoskeleton, nerves, spine, vertebra, aquatic, fertilizes, gills, lungs, respiratory, scales, spawn, amphibians, dormant, evolved, fluctuates, morph, shed, transformation, wetlands, aggressive, calcified, domed, effectively, membranes, sensitive, venomous, cavities, glide, insulation, metabolism, nest, webbed, diaphragm, infancy, mammary glands, marine, stately, terrestrial, alpine, antifreeze, delta, hosts, reproduction, tentacles.</p>		
Further reading list		
<i>(Reading these commercial texts would support and enhance learning in the Wind in the Willows domain.)</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macavity the Mystery Cat – T. S. Eliot • What Is the Animal Kingdom?, by Bobbie Kalman • Oxford First Book of Animals, by Barbara Taylor • Animal Encyclopaedia: 2,500 Animals with Photos, Maps, and More! (National Geographic) • National Geographic Kids Reptiles and Amphibians Sticker Activity Book • Reptiles and Amphibians (DKfindout!) • Animals (DKfindout!) • About Amphibians: A Guide for Children (Cathryn Sill) • About Birds: A Guide for Children (Cathryn Sill) • About Fish: A guide for children (Cathryn Sill) • About Mammals: A guide for children (Cathryn Sill) • About Reptiles: A guide for children (Cathryn Sill) • Animals with Backbones (Keith Pigdon) • Kingdoms of Life: Classification (Come Learn with Me) 		
Independent Learning Project		
<i>Pupils are asked to complete at least one independent learning project at home during the domain. Some suggestions are below.</i>		
<p>Draw the front cover of a non-fiction book about animals – what information would you include? How would you make it eye catching?</p>	<p>Create a backdrop for a habitat based on an animal you have chosen.</p>	<p>Write an animal characteristic description for your animal.</p>
<p>Research a group of animals, either fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals—what they eat, where they live, etc. Write and/or draw about your findings.</p>	<p>Design a quiz based on identifying cold-blooded/warm-blooded and vertebrate/invertebrate as characteristics to classify animals.</p>	<p>Research, explore and communicate your findings about one of the following: the habitats of animals, classification of animals, life cycles of animals.</p>
<p>Visit a natural space, e.g. a woodland, a nature reserve or the local park with your family, What do you notice? What animals / insects did you see? Tell us all about the visit.</p>	<p>Make a short non-fiction book with key facts and information based on an animal group.</p>	<p>Make a 3D model of an animal using junk materials.</p>

