

## Classifying Vertebrates

When scientists discover a new animal, they give it a name and record everything about it.

They record the Latin name, who discovered it and when, its common names, where it's found, its habitat and its appearance.

We need a system to organise and make sense of the information we have.

We organise living things into groups based on their similarities and differences.

Most living things are sorted into two groups: plants and animals.

Animals are split into two groups: **vertebrates** (animals **with** a backbone) and **invertebrates** (animals **without** a backbone).

**Vertebrates** have a hard skeleton made of bone.

**Invertebrates** do not have a backbone or a skeleton. Many have a hard shell on the outside to protect themselves but others have a soft, flexible body.

**Vertebrates** can be separated into five groups: amphibian, reptile, fish, mammal and bird.

### Task

Have a go at classifying vertebrates on the '**Vertebrates**' activity sheet. Insert the five groups of vertebrates into the correct place on the classification key.

Then use the '**Key Questions**' activity sheet to generate questions to sort vertebrates using a branching key.

### Challenge

Use Haribos or dolly mixtures (or other objects/items) to create your own branching key to different sweets/objects/items.