



## Classifying Animals

### Activity 1 – Grouping Animals

1. Look at the animals on the cards. Can you write down the name of each animal?
2. Look at what the animals are covered in (fur, feather, scales, a shell...) Can you put them into their groups?
3. Can you name the groups (Use page 2 as clues to help you)?
4. All animals can be split into two groups – those with backbones (**vertebrates**) and those without backbones (**invertebrates**). Can you split the cards into these two groups? Ask an adult if you're unsure.

### Activity 2 – Introducing invertebrates

1. Find these four invertebrates: bee, beetle, ant & butterfly
2. What way are these animals the same and what ways are they different?
3. List them on the back of the page

(*clue*. How many legs, body parts, antennae, wings or colours)

### Activity 3 – Using a classification key

1. Pick out all invertebrates
2. Using the classification key on Page 6 follow the questions to work out which group these invertebrates belong to.
3. Write the invertebrates group next to its name.

### Activity 4 – Research you favourite!

Pick your favourite invertebrate and produce a poster telling your classmates about it. Be sure to include:

- Its habitat (where it likes to live; country, jungles, ponds, under rocks or in trees)
- Its description (how big, how many legs, wings, patterns, body parts)
- What does it like to eat (herbivore/omnivore/carnivore)
- Is it a predator or prey, maybe it's both!
- Any other cool adaptations (does it fly, have venom, walk on water?)



## Key Words

**Classification** – grouping living into categories based on similarities

**Vertebrate** – Animal with a backbone

**Invertebrate** – Animal without a backbone

**Mammal** – Animals covered in fur or hair that give birth to live young, produce milk, warm-blooded

**Reptile** – Animals covered in scales, cold-blooded, mostly lay leathery eggs

**Amphibian** – Animals that have smooth wet skin, under go metamorphosis, lay-jelly like eggs, cold-blooded

**Fish** – Animals covered in wet scales, have gills, live underwater, lay jelly-like eggs

**Bird** – Animals covered in feathers, lay hard shell eggs, have beaks

## List of animals on cards:

- Barn Owl
- Pipistrelle Bat
- Peacock Butterfly
- Jaguar
- Praying Mantis
- Lobster
- Earth Worm
- Ladybug
- Puffin
- Centipede
- Harvestman Spider
- Garden Spider
- White Rhino
- Dolphin
- Wood Louse
- Bullet Ant
- Snail
- Common Frog
- Scorpion
- Clown Fish
- Honey Bee
- Smooth Newt
- Millipede
- Common Lizard



# Woodland Invertebrates Classification Key

**Does it legs?**

YES

NO

**Does it have 6 legs?**

**Is the body split into many parts?**

YES

NO

YES

NO

**INSECT**  
6 legs, antennae, 3 body parts, some have wings.

**ANNELID**  
No legs, soft & segmented bodies.

**MOLLUSC**  
No legs, soft body, some have shells

**Does it have 8 legs?**

YES

NO

**ARACHNID**  
8 legs, no antennae, 2 body parts, no wings

**Does it have more than 20 legs?**

YES

NO

**MYRIAPOD**  
Lots of legs, lots of body parts.

**CRUSTACEAN**  
14 legs, body in segments

## Mollusc

**Snails** → Soft, slimy body and hard coiled shell

**Slugs** → Soft, slimy body but does not have a hard coiled shell

## Arachnid

**Legs 8**

Body divided into two parts— head & abdomen

**Harvestmen**

Long thin legs

One body part — round or oval

## Worms

**Earthworm (annelids)**

Long thin body divided into segments

## Crustacean

**Woodlice**

Body divided into many segments, 7 pairs of legs, oval body, can roll into a ball

## Myriapods

**Centipede**

Long thin body divided into segments, at least 15 pairs of legs

**Millipede**

Long thin body with 2 pairs of leg on each segment

## Insect larvae

Most insects reproduce by laying eggs. The young that hatch from these eggs are either larvae (looks different from adults) or nymphs (smaller versions of the adult)

**Butterfly & Moth**

**Beetle larva**

**True fly larva (maggot)**

# Insects

**Bees, wasps and ants** <sup>Legs</sup> **6**

Long antennae

See-through wings

Most have narrow waist

Bees are often hairy, whereas wasps and ants are not hairy.

Ants usually do not have wings

**Butterflies and moths** <sup>Legs</sup> **6**

Long antennae

Two wings on each side, usually col-

Butterfly— usually flies during the day, rest with their wings closed

Moth—usually fly at night, feathery antennae, rest with wings open

**Beetles** <sup>Legs</sup> **6**

Pincer- shaped

Wing cases meet in a straight line to make a T shape

Hard forewing cases to protect wings

**True bugs** <sup>Legs</sup> **6**

Wings usually meet in an X- or Y- shape

Not true for aphids

**True flies** <sup>Legs</sup> **6**

Short antennae

Large eyes

One pair of see-through wings

**Cricket, grasshoppers, earwigs** <sup>Legs</sup> **6**

Crickets have long antennae

Grasshoppers have short antennae

Earwigs have a pair of pincer-shaped claps