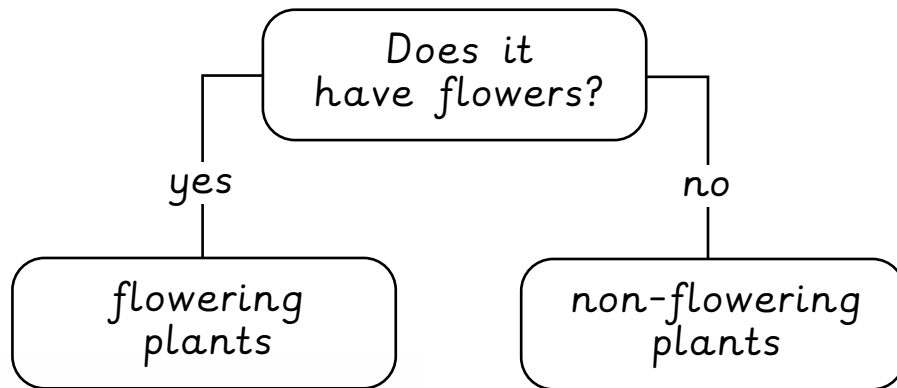


Living things can be sorted and identified with a tool called a **classification key**, which uses a series of yes/no questions:



Taxonomists are scientists who sort, group, identify and name living things.

Habitats can change because of negative human impacts:





- Plastic pollution is building up in our seas, hurting animals that get trapped in it or ingest it.
- Climate change, caused by human activities, is heating up the Earth, which can disrupt habitats and affect species survival.
- Coral bleaching, a result of increased sea temperatures, is making it difficult for coral and the animals that live there to survive.
- Deforestation involves the cutting down of large areas of forest, which destroys the habitats of many plants and animals.

Habitats can change because of natural disasters:

- Earthquakes can make mountains change shape. They can also cause volcanoes to erupt, destroy animals' shelters and uproot plants.
- Wildfires can destroy large areas, burning all the plants. This can cause animals to die or lose their homes.
- Floods can make plants waterlogged or uproot them. They can wash away soil, destroy animals' shelters and cause animals to drown. Floods can also spread disease.

Living things can be classified into different groups according to their shared characteristics.






Animals without backbones are classified as **invertebrates**. They include the following groups:

worms	snails and slugs	insects	spiders
			



Conservationists are scientists who protect and restore habitats. They are working to reverse negative human impacts.

Animals with backbones are classified as **vertebrates**. They include the following groups:

fish	amphibians	reptiles	birds	mammals
				

Conservationists help by:

- Studying nature.
- Protecting and restoring habitats.
- Cleaning up pollution.
- Fighting climate change.
- Helping endangered species.
- Making laws and rules to protect the environment.
- Educating others about the environment.