

Year 4 2026-2027

Autumn Term Knowledge Organisers



Lesson Sequence



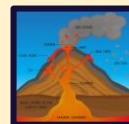
1. What are mountains?



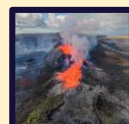
2. What are earthquakes?



3. Do earthquakes still happen?



4. What are volcanoes?



5. Do volcanoes still erupt?



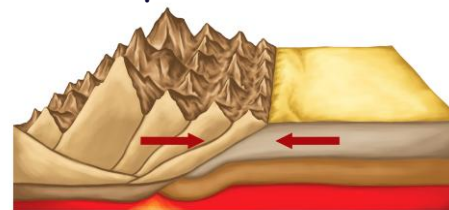
6. Assessment: Why do we have volcanoes, mountains and earthquakes?

Mountains

A mountain is a large, natural rise in the Earth's surface. A mountain range is a series of mountains connected in a line.

Mountains are formed by movements in the Earth's crust, particularly from tectonic plate collisions that push the land upwards.

Mountain ranges across the world include the Alps, Andes, Rockies and Himalayas.



Earthquakes

An earthquake is a sudden shaking of the Earth's surface caused by the release of energy in the crust.

Earthquakes occur when stress builds up between tectonic plates, causing the crust to crack and release energy.

The Richter Scale measures earthquake magnitude, ranging from 1 to 10.

Regions near the tectonic plate boundaries are likely to experience earthquakes.

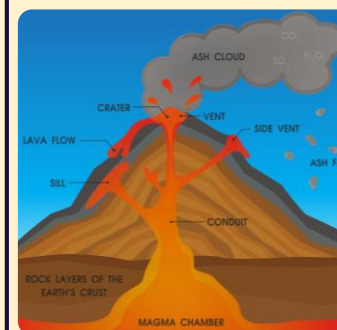


Volcanoes

A volcano is an opening in the Earth's crust that releases lava, ash and gases.

- Most volcanoes are found along tectonic plate boundaries.
- The Earth has four layers: the crust, mantle, outer core and inner core.
- The mantle is made of hot, slow-moving rock that can create magma.
- Volcanoes form when magma rises through cracks in the Earth's crust. When the pressure builds up, the magma erupts as lava.

Volcanoes can be active, dormant or inactive.



Volcanic soil is very fertile. Volcanoes can also create new islands and attract tourists.



Lesson Sequence



1. Explore different habitats



2. Research a habitat



3. Explore how animals can be classified



4. Create a classification key

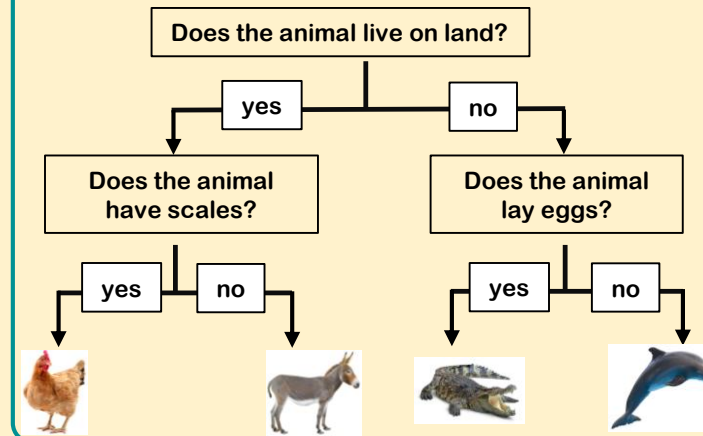


5. Adaptations and classification within species



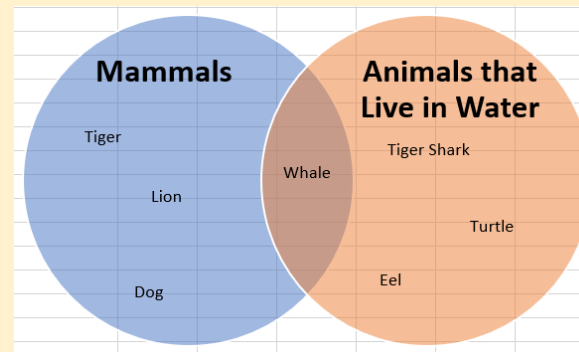
6. Explore and classify pond plants

Classification Keys

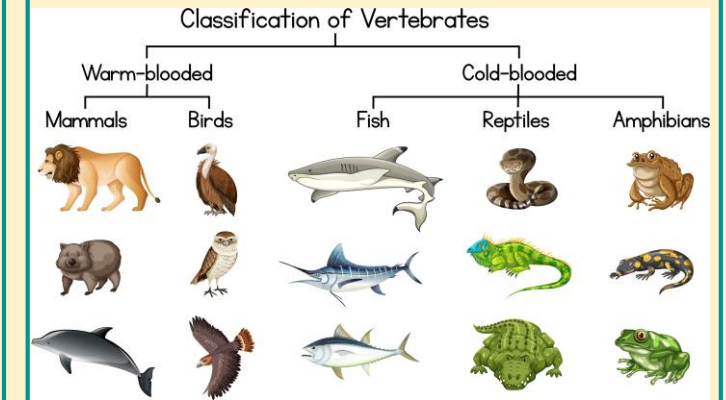


Venn Diagrams

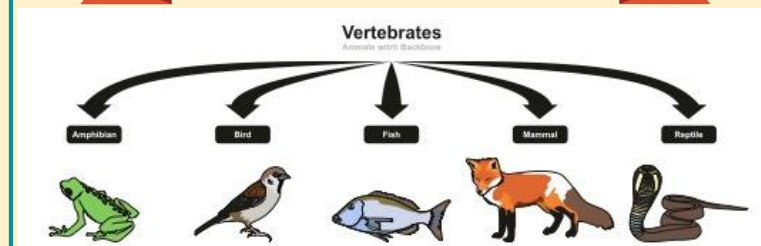
Animals can be sorted, or classified, in a number of different ways. A 'branched' diagram or a Venn diagram, like those shown below, are just two examples.



Classification



What is a Classification Key?



A classification key is a series of questions that determine an organism's physical characteristics. **When you answer one question, it either branches off to another question or identifies the organism.** Ultimately, they help to identify an unknown organism, or work out how to categorise groups of similar organisms.



Lesson Sequence



1. Describe ecosystems and how they are affected by changes in the seasons



2. Understand human impact on the environment through deforestation



3. Explore air pollution



4. Understand water pollution



5. Explore methods that can be used to conserve water

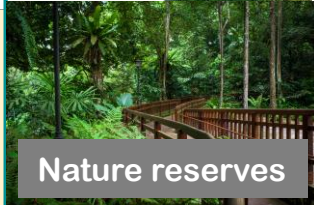


6. Understand that humans can have a positive impact on nature

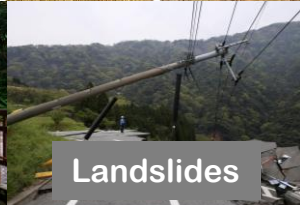
How environments change?



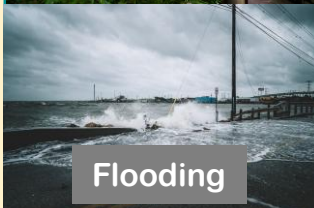
Seasonal change



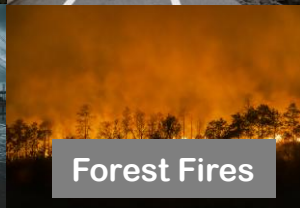
Nature reserves



Landslides



Flooding



Forest Fires



Water treatment Plant



Oil Spills

The water people use in their homes comes from nature and must be cleaned up to be returned to nature so it can be used again. This is an important part of our water cycle.

Why environments change

NATURAL CHANGES – different seasons can change habitats. Greenhouse gases cause climate change and climate change has caused our planet to get a lot warmer over a very short period of time. This has caused more extreme weather events like hurricanes, floods and droughts. It has also caused the extinction of many living things.

HUMAN CHANGES – How humans live and what they do can impact habitats both negatively and positively.

Negative ways:

- Deforestation - cutting down trees for a range of reasons
- Littering – dropping rubbish or leaving large objects lying in the environment
- Pollution – introducing harmful substances into the environment.
- Air pollution from cars, e.g., carbon monoxide, and the burning of fossil fuels.
- Water pollution through industrial waste and farm fertilisers that can pollute rivers and streams.
- Rubbish—Plastic and household waste ends up on the streets, in the sea or in rubbish dumps, destroying habitats and wildlife.

Positive ways:

- Protecting endangered species via conservation projects
- Cleaning bodies of water
- Recycling
- Creating nature reserves



Year 4 – The Legacy of Ancient Greece

Knowledge Organiser

Careers connected to this unit: historian,
museum curator, archaeologist,
politician



Lesson Sequence



1. How important is Ancient Greece today?



2. Did Athens really invent democracy?



3. How do the Ancient Olympic Games compare to the modern Olympics?



4. Are the Greek gods still important today?



5. How much has theatre changed since Ancient Greece?



6. Assessment: What is the most important legacy of Ancient Greece?

The city-states of Ancient Greece

Ancient Greece did not have one ruler. It was instead made up of areas and cities which were ruled separately, but had a shared language, religion and culture. Each city has a different legacy.



Ancient Greek theatre

Greek theatre took place in an outdoor theatron. The chorus sang and chanted while male actors performed on the orchestra (the stage) wearing masks.



Ancient Athenian democracy

Democracy developed in the city-state of Athens.

- Male citizens over 18 could vote on laws.
- Women, children, foreigners and enslaved people were excluded.
- Voting happened in public, including using ostrakon to banish people from the city.
- The Boule was made up of 500 randomly-chosen men who organised the votes.



The Ancient Olympic Games

The Olympic Games were held in Olympia and were attended by athletes from all over Greece. They featured sports such as boxing, chariot racing, running, and pankration. The games were held to honour the Ancient Greek gods.

