

## Keys -animals

### Making and using keys to identify invertebrates according to their characteristics

KS2		Total Duration: 2 hours
<b>Curriculum Links</b> <b>Living things and their habitats</b> recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment		
Learning Objectives	Learning Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that living things can be grouped according to their characteristics</li> <li>how to construct a simple key</li> <li>to use a key to identify invertebrates</li> </ul>	All children will be able to use a key to identify an invertebrate Most children will be able to sort 4 invertebrates into groups according to a characteristic Some children will be able to create their own key	

### Programme Summary

This session introduces pupils to the importance of keys in classification. The class will start off in the centre making their own keys to sort pictures of animals by different criteria. We will then carry out an invertebrate hunt in the woods and the pupils can use a variety of keys to help them classify what they have found. In the plenary, the value of keys, the merits and disadvantages of sorting into different criteria will be discussed. The standard method of classification will also be introduced.

### Pre-visit Preparation

#### If you have not visited the centre before a pre-visit is essential.

It helps to brief the children before a visit. Talk through how scientists can use keys to order and classify. Discuss types of invertebrates and their similarities and differences.

Pre-visit ideas	Post-visit ideas
Invertebrate hunt in the school grounds Sorting activity with pictures of animals for children to arrange into their own key.	Online quizzes on keys and classification Begin research on the importance of the work of Carl Linnaeus Make up keys for a range of different animals.

Please refer to our Health & Safety Information for risk assessments and an outline of the school and Ecology Centre responsibilities.