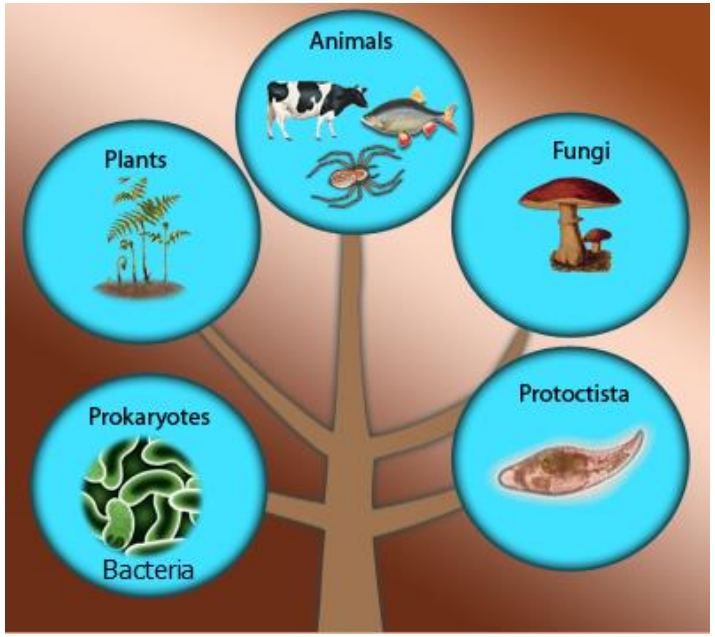
Science: Classifying Living Things

Year 6: Spring 1

Key Vocabulary	
amphibian	an animal with an internal skeleton that lives both in and out of water
bacteria	single-celled organisms, most of which can only be seen with a microscope
fungí	taxonomic kingdom comprising all the fungus groups and sometimes also the slime moulds
genus	the group that an organism belongs to
insect	an animal with six legs
invertebrate	animal without a backbone
microbe	tiny single-celled bacteria
organisms	living things
species	the sub-group within the genus that an organism belongs to

Diagram 1: The 5 Kingdoms of Living Things



Key question:

Why is it important for scientists to classify living things?

Helpful Microbes	Harmful Microbes
Bacteria – cheese	**Bacteria** – salmonella is a bacterium that can lead to food poisoning
Yeast – wine	**Virus** – chicken pox and flu are examples of viral diseases
Bacteria – yoghurt	**Fungi** – athlete's foot
Yeast – bread dough	**Bacteria** – plaque
Penicillium fungí - antibiotics	**Fungí** - mould

Key concept: Living things are divided into groups, with members of each group having similar features.

The **animal kingdom** can be divided into two broad groups based on whether they have a backbone (vertebrate) or not (invertebrate).

The **plant kingdom** can also be divided into two groups, flowering and non-flowering plants.

The **fungi kingdom** plays the role of decomposers, breaking down plant and animal material.

Prokaryotes, including **bacteria** Prokaryotes are the group that bacteria (and bluegreen algae) belong to. Bacteria are a large and diverse group of single-celled organisms without a nucleus.

Protoctists are single cells or groups of single cells, the most well-known are amoeba and slime moulds.