Science | Year 3/4 – Living things and their habitats | 2021-22

1. recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways
2. explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment
3. recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

	Assessment guidance	Key learning	Key vocabulary
Living things and their habitats	Shows understanding of a concept using scientific vocabulary correctly	Living things can be grouped (classified) in different ways according to their features. Classification keys can be used to identify and name living things. Living things live in a habitat which provides an environment to which they are suited (year 2 learning). These environments may change naturally e.g. through flooding, fire, earthquakes etc. Humans also cause the environment to change. This can be in a good way i.e. positive human impact, such as setting up nature reserves or in a bad way i.e. negative human impact, such as littering. These environments also change with the seasons; different living things can be found in a habitat at different times of the year	Classification classification keys environment habitat human impact positive negative migrate hibernate vertebrate invertebrate
	Applying knowledge in familiar related contexts, including a range of enquiries	Observe plants and animals in different habitats throughout the year Compare and contrast the living things observed Use classification keys to name unknown living things Classify living things found in different habitats based on their features Create a simple identification key based on observable features Use fieldwork to explore human impact on the local environment e.g. litter, tree planting Use secondary sources to find out about how environments may naturally change Use secondary sources to find out about human impact, both positive and negative, on environments	

Session sequence – Living things and their habitats

Session	Key learning	Activity
1	Living things can be classified	Classifying activity – using different criteria to classify and sort
2	Using and creating classification keys	Classifying biscuits using yes/ no questions
3	Using yes/no classification keys to classify vertebrates	Creating classification keys for vertebrates
4	To use a classification key to identify invertebrates	Look for invertebrate samples around the school grounds, use classification keys to identify them. Draw and label.
5	Identifying features of different habitats	Look at a range of different habitats within the rainforest – canopy, understory etc– what features do they have? What type of animals are they suited for (some internet research)
6	What impact are humans having on the rainforest habitat?	Positive and negative impact of human interaction within these environments