Unit Vocabulary –

classifying	a feature or quality belonging to a person, place, or thing that helps to identify them.
classification key	a living being, such as an animal or a plant.
characteristics	a set of questions about the characteristics of living things to decide which group they belong to.
organisms	animals that don't have a backbone – they either have a soft body or a hard outer casing covering their body.
cold-blooded	animals that have a backbone inside their body.
warm-blooded	can control their own body temperature.
vertebrates	can't control their own body temperature.
invertebrates	eats meat and vegetables.
carnivore	only eats meat.
omnivore	only eats vegetables.
herbivore	plants that have tissues that can carry nutrients and water throughout the plant. Vascular plants have leaves, roots and stems.
vascular plants	plants that usually have no roots, leaves or stems.
non-vascular plants	sorting something into groups according to their similar characteristics.

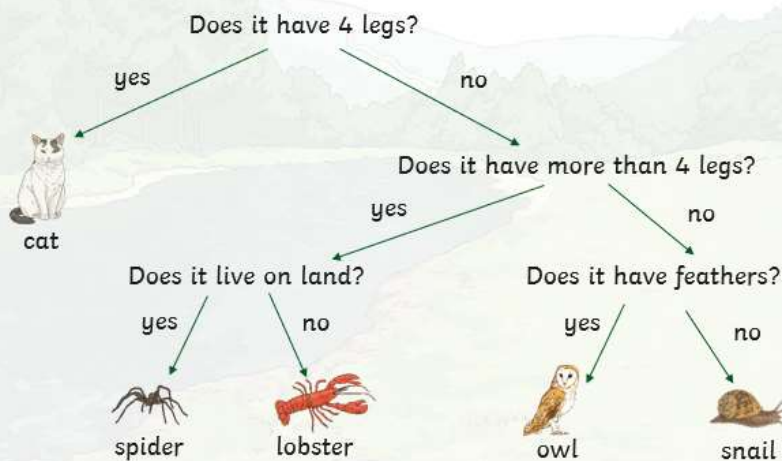## Scientist we are studying
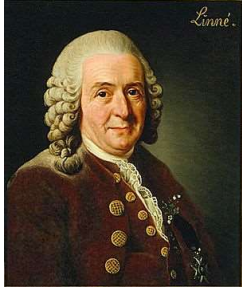
Carl Linneaus (1707-1778)

Carl Linnaeus was a Swedish scientist who believed it was very important to have a standard system of classification. At the time he was alive, in the 1700s, there was no agreed standard method. Linnaeus collected and examined over 40,000 specimens of plants, animals and shells and proposed that there were three large groups, called kingdoms, into which the whole of nature could fit. These kingdoms were plants, animals and minerals. He then split each kingdom into smaller and smaller groups, or levels.

Living things can be classified using a classification key like this one.

Does it have 4 legs?

yes → cat

no → Does it have more than 4 legs?

yes → Does it live on land?

yes → spider

no → lobster

no → Does it have feathers?

yes → owl

no → snail

Scientists believe that there could be as many as 10 million different species on Earth! It would be very hard to study the lives and behaviours of all these living things without grouping them together somehow.

Scientists sort and group living things according to their similarities and differences. This is called classification. Scientists who classify living things are called taxonomists.

Scientific enquiry we are using:

Identifying, grouping and classifying
Making observations to name, sort and organise items.