

# Section 2- Sorting Classifying, Variation



## Activity 1



### Introduction

Discuss with the children that classification is comparing and organising things in groups and that this is something scientists do. They classify animals and plants according to their distinguishing features.

Sort common objects into various groups according to their properties e.g. shape, size, colour. Allow the children time in their groups to sort objects, justifying their groupings, giving explanations for their choices. They can begin by sorting according to their own criteria and then by given criteria.

Introduce the 'marine life' cards, children sort according to characteristics, using both their own criteria and given criteria.



## Activity 2, 2a

Which group?



Using the PowerPoint resource illustrate how animals can be divided into two sub groups, vertebrates (animals with a backbone), invertebrates (animals without a backbone). Introduce the five common vertebrate groups and some invertebrate groups. Explain that this is a system which all scientists use so that there is no

confusion when people are naming animals and plants, in a similar way to why we use a standard unit of measure.

Children can complete 'Which group?' worksheets for invertebrates and vertebrates. Alternatively this activity could be done practically on large paper with the picture cards provided.



## Activity 3

### Classifying echinoderms

Explain to the children that biologists use keys to identify plants and animals they find. Use the Power Point provided to illustrate the use of a classification key.

Complete the 'Classifying Echinoderms' worksheet. The children could then devise their own classification key about children in their class. Firstly list characteristics which they could use and devise questions. For example is the person male or female? Brown eyes/blue eyes? Wears glasses?

They could gather the data needed first and then make their own key. Alternatively the children could use the sorting picture cards to create their own classification key.



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## Activity 4

What am I?

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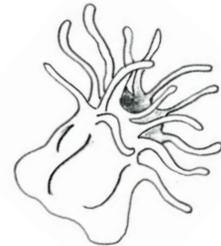
Children use marine picture cards to play a 'What am I?' game with each other, describing their characteristics while another or others have to guess which organism they are. Encourage open questions which give further information rather than questions with yes/no answers. Children use the information they have learned about characteristics of marine animals in order to write their own riddles for each other to solve.



## Activity 5

Think of an animal

This activity focuses children on the characteristics of different marine species. It can be done as a one off activity or carried out frequently in any spare five minutes for the duration of the topic. The animal sorting cards can be used for this activity.



Examples

- I am thinking of a crustacean, you have 5 questions to ask to find out which one.
- I am thinking of a marine animal. You have 20 questions to ask to find out which one.

