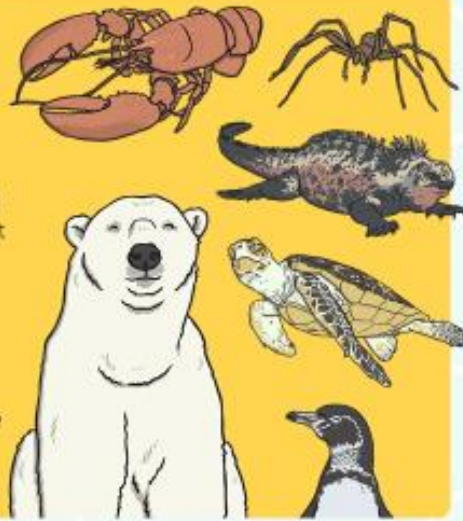## Characteristics

Today we are going to create our own branching keys to identify living things by looking at their characteristics.

The characteristics of a living thing are what make it similar or different to other living things.

All species of living thing have a unique set of characteristics.

Species with similar characteristics are put into groups. This is how we classify living things.

Characteristics

These are some of the characteristics of the domestic cat:

Has whiskers

Has four legs

Has fur

Is a carnivore

Has a tail

These are **not** characteristics of the species:

Is awake

Is cute

Likes milk

Is a baby

Plays with string

Why not?

Classification Keys

Does it have feathers?

yes   no

Does it have webbed feet?   Does it lay eggs?

yes   no   yes   no

Record which living thing has each characteristic by putting a tick or a cross in the table. Write your own questions in the last four boxes of the table.

	blue whale	octopus	shark	seahorse	crab	dolphin	sea turtle	clownfish
Does it have legs?								
Does it have a shell?								
Does it breathe air?								

Now you have thought about these questions create your own classification key.