

Key Questions

- Where is Madagascar located?
- Which ocean is Madagascar in?
- Name some animals that can be found on the island that cannot be found anywhere else in the world?
- Why do different animals survive here?
- What is the climate like in Madagascar?
- How can we sort and classify

Challenge Tasks

Please also refer to the homework menu given out this term.

Investigate why so many different animals in Madagascar are becoming endangered.

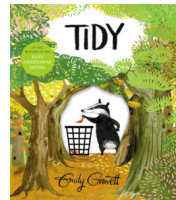
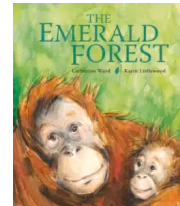
If Animals Could Talk

(Science/Geography focused topic)



During this topic, the children will focus on the country of Madagascar. We will investigate life in the country and the animals that live there. We will learn about any environmental changes that may affect the animals. We will also be focusing on living things and their habitats and the changes and dangers of our modern world may

Additional texts to read that compliment this topic:



Key Vocabulary

climate, landscape, weather, animals, invertebrate, vertebrate, continent, island, Tropic of Capricorn, Tropic of Cancer, equator, human and physical geography, classification, environment,

Vertical Drivers

Our Place in the world - making comparisons between Madagascar and the UK; environmental issues that some animals may currently be facing in today's world.

Staying Safe- how we can stay safe and

Local places to visit:

West Midland Safari Park, Kidderminster

All Things Wild- Honeybourne, Evesham

Think Tank, Birmingham

Worcester Gallery and Museum (the old library) have different animal skeletons as well as many other artefacts that the children may find

We will be focusing on the country Madagascar and as well as finding out about this country, we will be making comparisons with the

UK



MADAGASCAR

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview

- Madagascar is an island country in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of East Africa.
- The nation is made up of the island of Madagascar (the 4th largest island in the world) and several other smaller islands.
- With an area of 592,800km², Madagascar is the 2nd largest island country in the world (after Indonesia). It is the 22nd largest country in Africa and the 46th largest country in the world.
- Madagascar has around 27 million people, making it the 52nd most populous nation in the world.
- Madagascar is a biodiversity hotspot – around 90% of its wildlife is found nowhere else on Earth.



Human Geography

There is some evidence that humans have lived on Madagascar for thousands of years, but there was an influx of settlers from Indonesia and Malaysia between 200BCE and 700CE. Madagascar has been an independent nation since 1960.

Population		-With around 27 million people, Madagascar is the 17 th most populous country in Africa. Much of the population inhabits the eastern portion of the country. The population density of Madagascar is 48 people per sq km. Few people live on the arid southern coast.
Settlements		-The capital and most populous city in Madagascar is Antananarivo. The city sits at 1,280m above sea level in the centre of the island. It has a population of around 1.3 million people. The next most populous cities are Toamasina (330,000) and Antsirabe (250,000).
Economic Activity		-The Malagasy Ariary is the national currency of Madagascar. The Madagascan economy is held up by its agriculture market, and there has also been increasing tourism into the country. Mining and textiles are also industries that are growing.
Resources/Trade		-Madagascar exports are led by Vanilla (\$945M), Raw Nickel (\$429M), Cobalt (\$234M), Knit Sweaters (\$159M), and Cloves (\$158M). The most common destination for the exports of Madagascar are United States (\$709M), France (\$668M) and Germany (\$263M)

Key Vocabulary

- Madagascar
- Africa
- Indian Ocean
- Mozambique Channel
- Rainforest
- Antananarivo
- Mahajanga
- Toamasina
- Antsirabe
- Tropical
- Island Country
- Biodiverse

Physical Geography

- Madagascar is a large island that is around 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of mainland Africa, separated by the Mozambique Channel.
- Madagascar can be divided into five general geographical regions: the east coast, the Tsaratanana Massif, the Central Highlands, the west coast, and the southwest.
- The climate is tropical along the coast, temperate inland, and arid in the south. The East coast has a tropical rainforest climate. It is the area that is most exposed to trade winds, and in some areas receives up to 4,000mm of annual rain.
- The highest point is Maromokotro, in the Tsaratanana Massif region in the north of the island, at 2,876 metres.
- Madagascar is sometimes known as 'alternate world' or 'world apart' because it has so many unique species. This is because the land has had several million years of isolation from other landmasses.
- The longest rivers in Madagascar are the Mangoky River (564km) and the Betsiboka River (525km).



Comparison with the UK

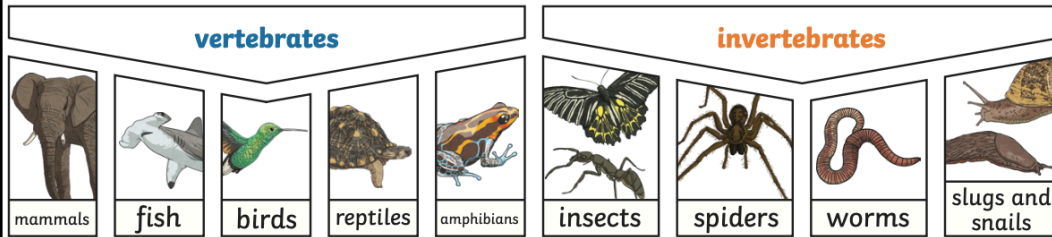
- The UK is in Europe, whilst Madagascar is in Africa. The UK is in the northern hemisphere, but Madagascar is in the southern hemisphere.
- The UK has a temperate climate, whilst the Madagascan climate varies depending upon the region (it is mainly tropical or arid).
- Madagascar is much larger than the UK – 592,800sq km compared to 243,610sq km.
- However, less people live in Madagascar than the UK – 27 million people compared to 66 million in the UK.
- London has a far larger population than any city in Madagascar (9 million compared to around 1.3 million in Antananarivo).
- The UK and Madagascar are both island countries.



Madagascar Timeline

Millions BCE The island of Madagascar separates from the African-Indian supercontinent.	200 BCE – 500 CE The island is settled by humans arriving by canoes from the Sunda Islands.	500-700 CE Waves of settlers begin to join the initial settlers on the island from Indonesia and Malaysia.	1400 CE Arabic script brought to the island by Muslim immigrants.	1500 CE Portuguese sailors under the command of Diego Dias become the first Europeans to set foot on Madagascar.	1600 CE Around 150,000 slaves are shipped from the island.	1896 CE Madagascar becomes a French colony.	1960 CE Madagascar gains full independence from France.
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Animals can be grouped in lots of different ways based upon their **characteristics**.

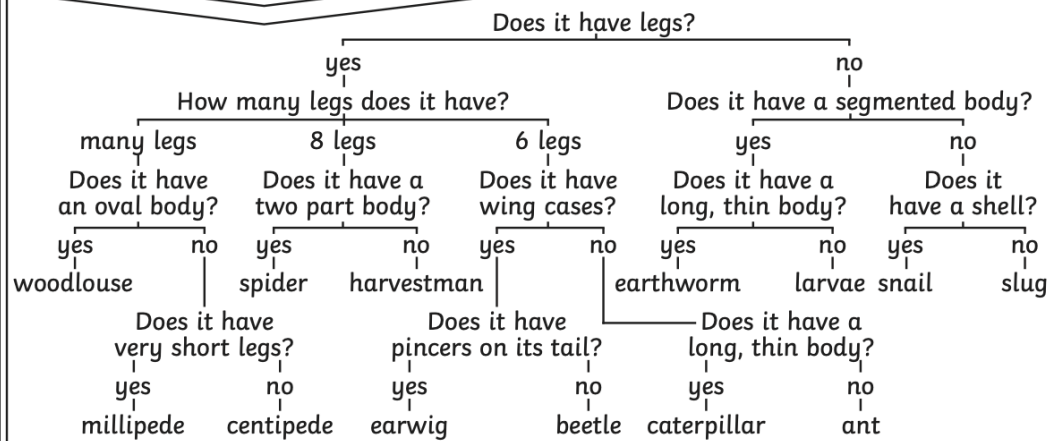


Vertebrates can be separated into five broad groups.

You can use **classification** keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things. Here is an example of a **classification** key:

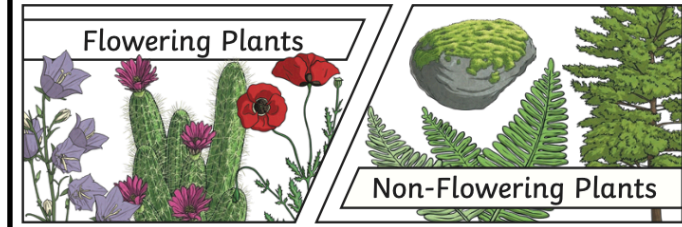
You could sort **invertebrates** you might see around school in different ways, such as in this example. The vast majority of living things on the planet are **invertebrates**.

Invertebrate Classification Key



Science: Living Things and their habitats

Plants can be sorted into many different groups. For example:



Key Vocabulary	
organisms	This is another word that can be used to mean 'living things'.
life processes	The things living things do to stay alive.
respiration	A process where plants and animals use oxygen gas from the air to help turn their food into energy.
sensitivity	The way living things react to changes in their environment .
reproduction	The process through which young are produced.
excretion	The process by which living things get rid of waste products.
nutrition	The process of obtaining food to provide living things with energy to live and stay healthy.
habitat	The specific area or place in which particular animals or plants may live.
environment	An environment contains many habitats and these include areas where there are both living and non-living things.
endangered species	A plant or animal where there are not many of their species left and scientists are concerned that the species may become extinct .
extinct	When a species has no more members alive on the planet, it is extinct .

Changes to an **environment** can be natural or caused by humans. Changes to an **environment** can have positive as well as negative effects. Here are some examples of things that can change an **environment**.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>Natural</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earthquakes • storms • floods • droughts • wildfires • the seasons |
| <i>Human-Made</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deforestation • pollution • urbanisation • the introduction of new animal or plant species to an environment • creating new nature reserves |

Plants and animals rely on the **environment** to give them everything they need. Therefore, when **habitats** change, it can be very dangerous to the plants and animals that live there.



