

# Science knowledge progression: Year 4 Topic: Living things and their habitats Scientist Jacques Cousteau



## Key knowledge and learning for this topic:

What pupils need to know or do to be secure

Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.

Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

### **Key Learning:**

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.

#### **Key Vocabulary:**

Environment, flowering, non-flowering, plants, animals, vertebrate – fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates – snails, slugs, worms, spiders, insects, plants – flowering plants (including grasses), non-flowering (including mosses and ferns), human impact, positive – nature reserves, ecologically planned parks, garden ponds, negative – population, litter, development, deforestation

Prior learning in previous year groups:	Where is our learning going?
	Future objectives in later year groups and key stages.
Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants,	Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an
including deciduous and evergreen trees. (Y1 - Plants)	amphibian, an insect and a bird. (Y5 - Living things and their
Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common	habitats)
flowering plants, including trees. (Y1 - Plants)	Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and
Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish,	animals. (Y5 -Living things and their habitats)
amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. (Y1 - Animals including	Describe how living things are classified into broad groups
humans)	according to common observable characteristics and based on
Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals	similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants
(fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets). (Y1 –	and animals. (Y6 - Living things and their habitats)
Animals, including humans)	Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific
Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats,	characteristics. (Y6 - Living things and their habitats)
including microhabitats. (Y2 - Living things and their habitats)	

#### **Application and Synthesis**

 Applying knowledge in familiar and new contexts, including a range of enquires

 Activities

 • 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.

- Can keep a careful record of living things found in different habitats throughout the year (diagrams, tally charts etc.)
- Can use classification keys to identify unknown plants and animals
- Can present their learning about changes to the environment in different ways e.g. campaign video, persuasive letter



Possible evidence to assess knowledge:	Common misconceptions:
Can name living things living in a range of	Some children may think:
habitats, giving the key features that helped	the death of one of the parts of a food chain or web has no or limited consequences on
them to identify them	the rest of the chain
Can give examples of how an environment may	there is always plenty of food for wild animals
change both naturally and due to human	animals are only land-living creatures
impact	animals and plants can adapt to their habitats, however they change
	all changes to habitats are negative.



# Science knowledge progression: Year 4

# **Topic:** Animals Including Humans



## Key knowledge and learning for this topic:

What pupils need to know or do to be secure

Describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans.

Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions.

Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

### **Key Learning:**

Food enters the body through the mouth. Digestion starts when the teeth start to break the food down. Saliva is added and the tongue rolls the food into a ball. The food is swallowed and passes down the oesophagus to the stomach. Here the food is broken down further by being churned around and other chemicals are added.

The food passes into the small intestine. Here nutrients are removed from the food and leave the digestive system to be used elsewhere in the body. The rest of the food then passes into the large intestine. Here the water is removed for use elsewhere in the body. What is left is then stored in the rectum until it leaves the body through the anus when you go to the toilet.

Humans have four types of teeth: incisors for cutting; canines for tearing; and molars and premolars for grinding (chewing).

Living things can be classified as producers, predators and prey according to their place in the food chain.

### Key Vocabulary:

human digestive system, mouth, tongue – mixes, moistens, saliva, teeth, incisors –, cutting, slicing, canines – ripping, tearing, molars – chewing, grinding, oesophagus, transports, stomach, acid, enzymes, small intestine – absorbs water, vitamins, large intestine – compacts, carnivore, herbivore, brush, floss, not too many sweets, food chain, Sun, producers, prey, predators, consumers

Prior learning in previous year groups:	Where is our learning going?
	Future objectives in later year groups and key stages.
Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores	Identify and name the main parts of the human
and omnivores. (Y1 - Animals, including humans)	circulatory system, and describe the functions of the
Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for	heart, blood vessels and blood. (Y6 - Animals,
survival (water, food and air). (Y2 - Animals, including humans)	including humans)
Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of	Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and
different types of food, and hygiene. (Y2 - Animals, including humans)	lifestyle on the way their bodies function. (Y6 -
Identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of	Animals, including humans)
nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from	Describe the ways in which nutrients and water are
what they eat. (Y3 - Animals, including humans)	transported within animals, including humans. (Y6 -
	Animals, including humans)

### **Application and Synthesis**

Applying knowledge in familiar and new contexts, including a range of enquires

Activities

- Research the function of the parts of the digestive system.
- Create a model of the digestive system using household objects.
- Explore eating different types of food to identify which teeth are being used for cutting, tearing and grinding (chewing).
- Classify animals as herbivores, carnivores or omnivores according to the type of teeth they have in their skulls.
- Use food chains to identify producers, predators and prey within a habitat.
- Use secondary sources to identify animals in a habitat and find out what they eat.

- Can use diagrams or a model to describe the journey of food through the body explaining what happens in each part
- Can record the teeth in their mouth (make dental record)
- Can explain the role of the different types of teeth
- Can explain how the teeth in animal skulls show they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores
- Can create food chains based on research



Possible evidence to assess knowledge:	Common misconceptions:
Can sequence the main parts of the digestive system	Some children may think:
Can draw the main parts of the digestive system onto a human	arrows in a food chains mean 'eats'
outline	the death of one of the parts of a food chain or web has no, or limited,
Can describe what happens in each part of the digestive system	consequences on the rest of the chain
Can point to the three different types of teeth in their mouth	there is always plenty of food for wild animals
and talk about their shape and what they are used for	your stomach is where your belly button is
Can name producers, predators and prey within a habitat	food is digested only in the stomach
	when you have a meal, your food goes down one tube and your drink
	down another
	the food you eat becomes "poo" and the drink becomes "wee".



# Science knowledge progression: Year 4

# **Topic:** States of Matter

# Key knowledge and learning for this topic:

#### What pupils need to know or do to be secure

Compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.

Observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C).

Identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

### **Key Learning:**

A solid keeps its shape and has a fixed volume. A liquid has a fixed volume but changes in shape to fit the container. A liquid can be poured and keeps a level, horizontal surface. A gas fills all available space; it has no fixed shape or volume. Granular and powdery solids like sand can be confused with liquids because they can be poured, but when poured they form a heap and they do not keep a level surface when tipped. Each individual grain demonstrates the properties of a solid.

Melting is a state change from solid to liquid. Freezing is a state change from liquid to solid. The freezing point of water is 0°C. Boiling is a change of state from liquid to gas that happens when a liquid is heated toa specific temperature and bubbles of the gas can be seen in the liquid. Water boils when it is heated to 100°C. Evaporation is the same state change as boiling (liquid to gas), but it happens slowly at lower temperatures and only at the surface of the liquid. Evaporation happens more quickly if the temperature is higher, the liquid is spread out or it is windy. Condensation is the change back from a gas to a liquid caused by cooling.

Water at the surface of seas, rivers etc. evaporates into water vapour (a gas). This rises, cools and condenses back into a liquid forming clouds. When too much water has condensed, the water droplets in the cloud get too heavy and fall back down as rain, snow, sleet etc. and drain back into rivers etc. This is known as precipitation. This is the water cycle.

## **Key Vocabulary:**

solid – iron, ice, melt, freeze, liquid, evaporate, condense, gas, container, changing, state – chocolate, butter, cream, heated, heat, cooled, cool, degrees Celsius (oC), thermometer, water cycle – evaporate, evaporation, condense, condensation temperature – melting, melt, ice – warm/cool, water – warm/cool, water vapour

Prior learning in previous year groups:	Where is our learning going?
	Future objectives in later year groups and key stages.
Distinguish between an object and the material from which	Compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their
it is made. (Y1- Everyday materials)	properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity
Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including	(electrical and thermal), and response to magnets. (Y5 - Properties and
wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock. (Y1 - Everyday	changes of materials)
materials)	Know that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution and
Describe the simple physical properties of a variety of	describe how to recover a substance from a solution. (Y5 - Properties and
everyday materials. (Y1 - Everyday materials)	changes of materials)
Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials	Use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be
on the basis of their simple physical properties. (Y1 -	separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating. (Y5 -
Everyday materials)	Properties and changes of materials)
Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of	Give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the
everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass,	particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic.
brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses. (Y2 -	(Y5 - Properties and changes of materials)
Uses of everyday materials)	Demonstrate that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible
Find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some	changes. (Y5 - Properties and changes of materials)
materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting	Explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and
and stretching. (Y2 - Uses of everyday materials)	that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes
	associated with burning and the action of acid on bicarbonate of soda. (Y5-
	Properties and changes of materials)



# **Application and Synthesis**

Applying knowledge in familiar and new contexts, including a range of enquires

#### Activities

- Observe closely and classify a range of solids. Observe closely and classify a range of liquids.
- Explore making gases visible e.g. squeezing sponges under water to see bubbles and showing their effect e.g. using straws to blow objects, trees moving in the wind.
- Classify materials according to whether they are solids, liquids and gases.
- Observe a range of materials melting e.g. ice, chocolate, butter.
- Investigate how to melt ice more quickly.
- Observe the changes when making rocky road cakes or ice-cream.
- Investigate the melting point of different materials e.g. ice, margarine, butter and chocolate.
- Explore freezing different liquids e.g. tomato ketchup, oil, shampoo.
- Use a thermometer to measure temperatures e.g. icy water (melting), tap water, hot water, boiling water (demonstration).
- Observe water evaporating and condensing e.g. on cups of icy water and hot water.
- Set up investigations to explore changing the rate of evaporation e.g. washing, puddles, handprints on paper towels, liquids in containers.
- Use secondary sources to find out about the water cycle.

- Can give reasons to justify why something is a solid liquid or gas
- Can give examples of things that melt/freeze and how their melting points vary
- From their observations, can give the melting points of some materials
- Using their data, can explain what affects how quickly a solid melts
- Can measure temperatures using a thermometer
- Can explain why there is condensation on the inside the hot water cup but on the outside of the icy water cup
- From their data, can explain how to speedup or slow down evaporation
- Can present their learning about the water cycle in a range of ways e.g. diagrams, explanation text, story of a water droplet

Possible evidence to assess knowledge:	Common misconceptions:
Can create a concept map, including arrows linking the key vocabulary Can name properties of solids, liquids and gases Can give everyday examples of melting and freezing Can give everyday examples of evaporation and condensation Can describe the water cycle	Some children may think: 'solid' is another word for hard or opaque solids are hard and cannot break or change shape easily and are often in one piece substances made of very small particles like sugar or sand cannot be solids particles in liquids are further apart than in solids and they take up more space when air is pumped into balloons, they become lighter water in different forms – steam, water, ice – are all different substances all liquids boil at the same temperature as water (100 degrees) melting, as a change of state, is the same as dissolving steam is visible water vapour (only the condensing water droplets can be seen) clouds are made of water vapour or steam the substance on windows etc. is condensation rather than water the changing states of water (illustrated by the water cycle) are irreversible evaporating or boiling water makes it vanish evaporation is when the Sun sucks up the water, or when water is absorbed into a surface/material.



# Science knowledge progression: Year 4 Topic: Sound

#### Key knowledge and learning for this topic:

What pupils need to know or do to be secure

Identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating.

Recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear.

Find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it.

Find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it.

Recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

### **Key Learning:**

A sound produces vibrations which travel through a medium from the source to our ears. Different mediums such as solids, liquids and gases can carry sound, but sound cannot travel through a vacuum (an area empty of matter). The vibrations cause parts of our body inside our ears to vibrate, allowing us to hear (sense) the sound.

The loudness (volume) of the sound depends on the strength (size) of vibrations which decreases as they travel through the me dium. Therefore, sounds decrease in volume as you move away from the source. A sound insulator is a material which blocks sound effectively. Pitch is the highness or lowness of a sound and is affected by features of objects producing the sounds. For example, smaller objects usually produce higher pitched sounds.

#### **Key Vocabulary:**

Vibrate, vibration, vibrating, air, medium, faint, fainter, ear, hear, sound, volume, pitch, loud, louder, string, percussion, woodwind, brass, insulate, sound waves

Prior learning in previous	Where is our learning going?
year groups:	Future objectives in later year groups and key stages.
Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense. (Y1 - Animals, including humans)	Waves on water as undulations which travel through water with transverse motion; these waves can be reflected and add or cancel –superposition. (KS3) Frequencies of sound waves, measured in Hertz (Hz), echoes, reflection and absorption of sound. (KS3) Sound needs a medium to travel, the speed of sound in air, in water, in solids. (KS3) Sound produced by vibrations of objects, in loud speakers, detected by their effects on microphone diaphragm and the ear drum; sound waves are longitudinal. (KS3) Auditory range of humans and animals. (KS3) Pressure waves transferring energy; use for cleaning and physiotherapy by ultra-sound. (KS3) Waves transferring information for conversion to electrical signals by microphone. (KS3)

#### **Application and Synthesis**

Applying knowledge in familiar and new contexts, including a range of enquires

#### Activities

- Classify sound sources.
- Explore making sounds with a range of objects, such as musical instruments and other household objects.
- Explore how string telephones or ear gongs work.
- Explore altering the pitch or volume of objects, such as the length of a guitar string, amount of water in bottles, size of tuning forks.
- Measure sounds over different distances.
- Measure sounds through different insulation materials.

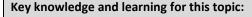
- Can explain what happens when you strike a drum or pluck a string and use a diagram to show how sounds travel from an object to the ear
- Can demonstrate how to increase or decrease pitch and volume using musical instruments or other objects
- Can use data to identify patterns in pitch and volume
- Can explain how loudness can be reduced by moving further from the sound source or by using a sound insulating medium



Possible evidence to assess knowledge:	Common misconceptions:
Can name sound sources and state that sounds are produced by the vibration of the	Pitch and volume are frequently confused, as
object	both can be described as high or low.
Can state that sounds travel through different mediums such as air, water, metal	
Can give examples to demonstrate how the pitch of a sound are linked to the features of	Some children may think:
the object that produced it	sound is only heard by the listener
Can give examples of how to change the volume of a sound e.g. increase the size of	sound only travels in one direction from the
vibrations by hitting or blowing harder	source
Can give examples to demonstrate that sounds get fainter as the distance from the	sound can't travel through solids and liquids
sound source increases	high sounds are load and low sounds are quiet.



# Science knowledge progression: Year 4 Topic: Electricity Scientist Thomas Edison



What pupils need to know or do to be secure Identify common appliances that run on electricity.

Construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. Identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery.

Recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit. Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

### **Key Learning:**

Many household devices and appliances run on electricity. Some plug in to the mains and others run on batteries. An electrical circuit consists of a cell or battery connected to a component using wires. If there is a break in the circuit, a loose connection or a short circuit, the component will not work. A switch can be added to the circuit to turn the component on and off.

Metals are good conductors so they can be used as wires in a circuit. Non-metallic solids are insulators except for graphite (pencil lead). Water, if not completely pure, also conducts electricity.

## Key Vocabulary:

Appliances, electricity, electrical circuit, cell, wire, bulb, buzzer danger, electrical safety, sign, insulators – wood, rubber, plastic, glass, conductors – metal, water, switch – closed, open

N.B. Children in Year 4 do not need to use standard symbols for electrical components, as this is taught in Year 6.

Prior learning in previous year groups:	Where is our learning going?
	Future objectives in later year groups and key stages.
Children know about similarities and differences in relation to	Associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the
places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the	number and voltage of cells used in the circuit. (Y6 - Electricity)
features of their own immediate environment and how	Compare and give reasons for variations in how components
environments might vary from one another. They make	function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers
observations of animals and plants and explain why some things	and the on/off position of switches. (Y6 - Electricity)
occur and talk about changes. (Early Learning Goal)	Use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a
	diagram. (Y6 - Electricity)

### **Application and Synthesis**

Applying knowledge in familiar and new contexts, including a range of enquires

Activities

- Construct a range of circuits.
- Explore which materials can be used instead of wires to make a circuit.
- Classify the materials that were suitable/not suitable for wires.
- Explore how to connect a range of different switches and investigate how they function in different ways.
- Choose switches to add to circuits to solve particular problems, such as a pressure switch for a burglar alarm.
- Apply their knowledge of conductors and insulators to design and make different types of switches.
- Make circuits that can be controlled as part of a DT project.
  - N.B.

Children should be given one component at a time to add to circuits.

- Can communicate structures of circuits using drawings which show how the components are connected
- Use classification evidence to identify that metals are good conductors and non-metals are insulators
- Can incorporate a switch into a circuit to turn it on and off
- Can connect a range of different switches identifying the parts that are insulators and conductors
- Can add a circuit with a switch to a DT Project and can demonstrate how it works



- Can give reasons for choice of materials for making different parts of a switch
- Can describe how their switch works

Possible evidence to assess knowledge:	Common misconceptions:
Can name the components in a circuit	Some children may think:
Can make electric circuits	electricity flows to bulbs, not through them
Can control a circuit using a switch	electricity flows out of both ends of a battery
Can name some metals that are conductors	electricity works by simply coming out of one end of a battery into
Can name materials that are insulators	the component.