THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 4 · SCIENCE · LIVING THINGS AND THEIR HABITATS

Living things and their habitats

Everything the questions ask about is taught on the page before them, so nobody has to know the science beforehand.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- More than one way to group things
- Classification keys
- When an environment changes
- Try it yourself
- How each one is worked

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3 topics · something to do at the end

Written for a parent teaching at home. No training assumed, and nothing else to buy.

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Classification keys

Read this first. Then answer the questions underneath.



A classification key is a set of questions that leads you to the name of a living thing.

Each question has exactly two answers, usually yes and no, and each answer sends you either to another question or to a name.

Does it have six legs? If no, it is not an insect. If yes, does it have wings? And so on, until only one answer is left.

The questions must be about things you can see. Does it live in a tree is a poor key question, because you cannot tell by looking at the animal in your hand.

1. What is a classification key?

The first sentence.

2. How many answers does each question have?

A number is given.

3. What must the questions be about?

The last paragraph.

4. WORK IT OUT **Why is does it live in a tree a poor question for a key?**

The passage explains it.

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When an environment changes

Read this first. Then answer the questions underneath.



An environment is everything around a living thing: the soil, the water, the weather and everything else living there.

Environments change. Some changes are natural, such as a flood, a fire or a long drought. Some are caused by people, such as clearing a wood, draining a wetland or putting waste into a river.

A change that suits one living thing often harms another. Clearing a wood gives grassland birds somewhere to feed and leaves woodland birds with nowhere to nest. That is why these questions are rarely simple.

1. What is an environment?

The first sentence.

2. Name two natural changes.

Three are listed.

3. Name two changes caused by people.

Three are listed.

4. WORK IT OUT **Why is clearing a wood not simply good or simply bad?**

The passage gives both sides.

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How each one is worked

The answers to the **work it out** questions are model answers. A child who says something different and can show you where on the page it came from has done the work.



MORE THAN ONE WAY TO GROUP THINGS

1. Name three ways animals could be grouped.

1. The passage says by where they live, by what they eat, by whether they have a backbone, or by how they move.
2. Any three of those is right.

Answer: **By where they live, by what they eat, by whether they have a backbone, or by how they move**

2. What makes a grouping a good one?

1. The passage says a good grouping is one where everybody sorting the same things would get the same answer.
2. So that is the answer.

Answer: **Everybody sorting the same things would get the same answer**

3. WORK IT OUT **Why is grouping animals as nice and nasty not a real grouping?**

1. A good grouping gives everybody the same answer.
2. Nice and nasty are opinions, not properties.
3. The passage gives the wasp as the example that settles it.

Answer: **Because two people would disagree about a wasp**

CLASSIFICATION KEYS

1. What is a classification key?

1. The passage says a classification key is a set of questions that leads you to the name of a living thing.
2. So that is the answer.

Answer: **A set of questions that leads you to the name of a living thing**

2. How many answers does each question have?

1. The passage says each question has exactly two answers.
2. So the answer is **exactly two**.

Answer: **Exactly two**

3. What must the questions be about?

1. The passage says the questions must be about things you can see.
2. So that is the answer.

Answer: **Things you can see**

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SAMPLE PAGES

You have read a few pages. The pack is longer.

What you are holding is a short sample, taken from different parts of the pack so that you can see how a week is planned and what a child is actually asked to do, before you decide.

The complete pack, and the rest of the academic materials, are on our website: schemes of work for a parent teaching at home, and practice packs for the skills children get stuck on.

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Islamic and Academic Education

Members of the homeschool community do not buy these. If you have joined the community, the pack for the term you are working on is given to you at no cost.

Our Islamic Education classes are free. These packs are part of what pays the teachers who teach them.