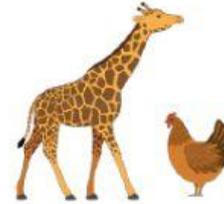## CLASSIFYING LIVING THINGS

- Grouping similar things together is known as classification. It helps us to find things easily, know we are talking about the same thing and learn more about things.

- There are different ways to classify a collection of things:
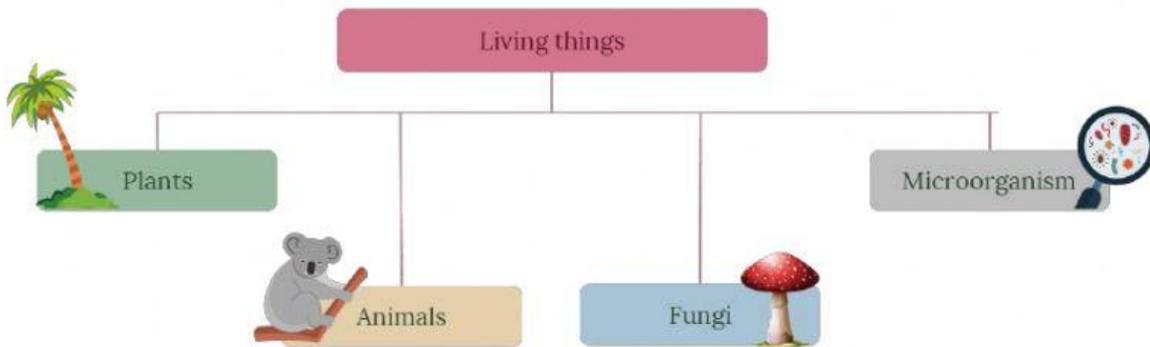
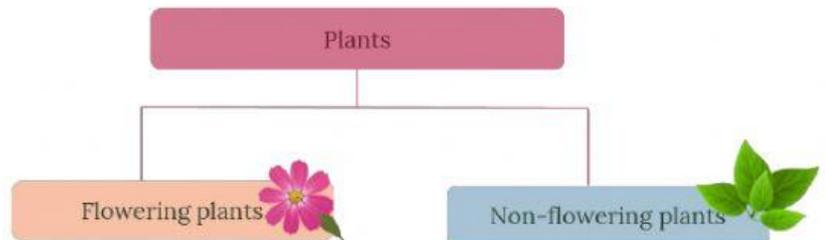Big or Small   Fly or Swim   Tall or Short

- There are many ways to classify living things. One way is to classify living things into four groups.
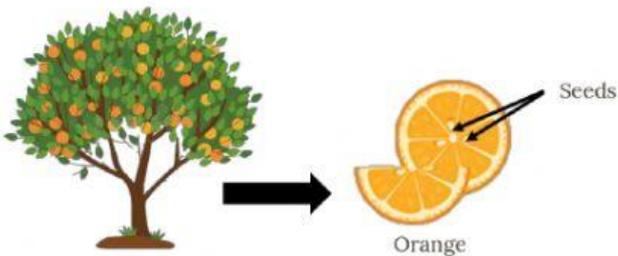
Living things

Plants   Animals   Fungi   Microorganism

CLASSIFYING PLANTS

- There are various ways of classifying plants. One way is to classify plants into two groups:

Plants

Flowering plants   Non-flowering plants

FLOWERING PLANTS

Seeds

Orange

- A flowering plant can produce flowers when fully grown.
- The seeds of a flowering plant are contained in the fruits.
- Some flowering plants, such as bamboo, only produce flowers at certain times of the year or under certain conditions.

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- Flowers usually have very bright colours (such as hibiscus flower) or a very pleasant smell (such as jasmine flower).
- However, not all flowers smell nice. For example: the Rafflesia flower has an unpleasant smell.

Hibiscus   Jasmine   Rafflesia

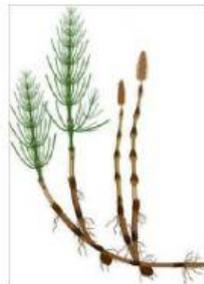## EXAMPLES OF FLOWERING PLANTS

Sunflower   Daisy   Banana tree   Rambutan tree

NON-FLOWERING PLANTS

- A non-flowering plant is a plant that cannot produce flowers at all.
- Conifers (such as casuarina), ferns (such as bird's nest fern) and mosses (such as club moss) are examples of non-flowering plants.
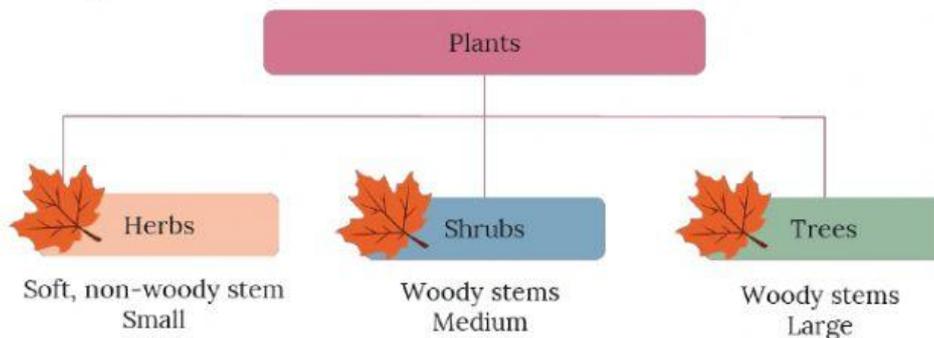
Horsetail   Bird's nest fern   Club moss

HERBS, SHRUBS AND TREES

- The other way is to classify plants according to their size groups.

Plants

Herbs   Shrubs   Trees

Soft, non-woody stem   Woody stems   Woody stems
Small   Medium   Large

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HERBS

- ≋ Herbs are smaller than shrubs and do not have woody stems. The stems are soft.
- ≋ They have green, tender stems with few branches.
- ≋ Different types of herbs can be used for different purposes, such as for cooking or for decorating homes.
- ≋ Examples of herbs:

Parsley   Chives   Mint   Chicory

SHRUBS

- ≋ Shrubs are medium-sized plants.
- ≋ They also have wooden stems but are much shorter than trees.
- ≋ They have thin and hard stems with branches that arise near the base of the stem.
- ≋ Examples of shrubs:

Roses   Hibiscus   Boxwood

TREES

- ≋ Trees are tall in height.
- ≋ They have thick, hard and brown stems, with branches that arise from the upper part of the stem. They also have wide spreading branches.
- ≋ Examples of trees:

Coconut tree   Pine tree   Papaya tree

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