Exploring Classification

Interactive sorting to discover the main animal classification systems

Year 3-4

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

✓ **All pupils** will understand that animals can be grouped in different ways

✓ **Most pupils** will learn the main animal groups

✓ **Some pupils** will be able to identify the key features of these different animal groups

Curriculum Links: **Science:**
Animals, including humans | Living things and their habitats

Year 5-6

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

✓ **All pupils** will be able to recall some of the animal classification taxonomy groups

✓ **Most pupils** will remember characteristics of the taxon groups

✓ **Some pupils** will be able to apply their knowledge to classify unknown animals

Curriculum Links:
Science: Living things and their habitats

Session Outline:

The session begins with pupils exploring a variety of real and plastic animal objects, including furs, skins, feathers, and horns. They then discuss animal differences and classification. Students will learn about Aristotle's system based on movement (flying, crawling, swimming) and habitat (air, land, water) and attempt to sort the objects, noting the challenges of this method. This leads to an introduction to the modern classification system and a closer look at the five main vertebrate groups: fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Pupils will identify key characteristics for each group, and sort the objects based on this new understanding.

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Please note, no live animals are used in this session