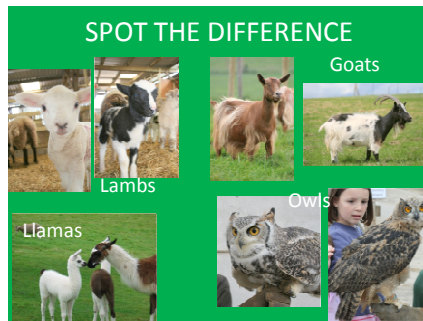




# POST VISIT TEACHING IDEAS

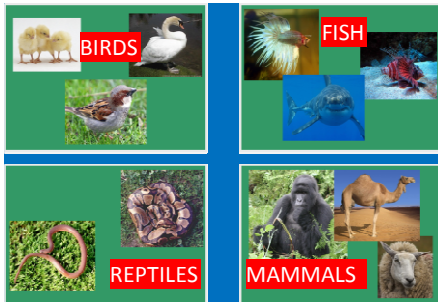
## CLASSIFICATION & VARIATION

On the day of your visit take photographs of as many of our animals as possible. Particularly if we have more than one of a particular species, i.e. pictures of different goats, or snakes, etc. Discuss the photographs back at school – play “spot the difference” between photos of the same species but also highlight their similarities.

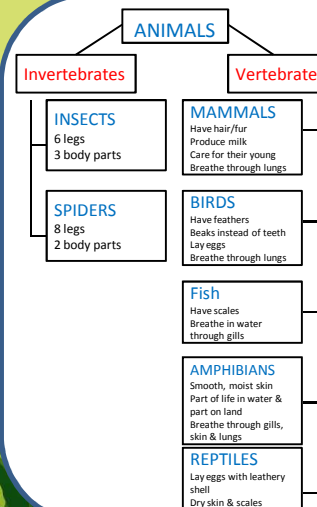


Bring in photos of pets from home. Pupils can describe to their classmates their pet before showing the photo, pupils have to guess which animal it is – from clues such as number of legs, skin covering, etc. Classify the photos of animals into groups, such as mammals, birds, fish, etc. and then classify into species groups. Focus on different pet dogs and discuss the variations between the different breeds and describe what the variations mean in terms of abilities and what they are used for by their owners, i.e. strong retriever type dogs, or small rat-catching terriers and so on.

Create classification keys, determining which questions need to be asked in order to sort the animals correctly into groups – discuss all different groupings that can be made, i.e. based on number of legs, ability to swim or fly, fur or scales, etc. Talk about formal groupings of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians and what animal characteristics are needed to sort into each group.



Create a poster describing each grouping.



Discuss the terms “vertebrates” and “invertebrates” and then lead a picture sort activity – “which animals have a skeleton/backbone?” Record the results in a table.

Research, via the web or factual books, animals that do not conform to the general rules for their group classification and list what the exceptions are. Discuss why they still fit in that particular group.