



Name of Ellie Story:	Ellie and the Unusual Creature
Target Year Groups:	Key stage 1 (Years 1 & 2), Key stage 2 (Years 4, 5 & 6)
Length of Story:	15 pages (1018 words) – Video Length: 7min03s
Key Themes:	Animal classification, DNA, newt life cycle
Story Outline:	Ellie and her classmates learn about animal classification from Dr Russell, a visiting scientist working on the Darwin Tree of Life Project. Dr Russell explains concepts of animal identification, classification, life cycles and habitats.
National Curriculum Science Themes Covered:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animals, including Humans (Year 1)• Animals, including Humans (Year 2)• Living Things and their Habitats (Year 2)• Living Things and their Habitats (Year 4)• Living Things and their Habitats (Year 5)• Living Things and their Habitats (Year 6)	
Specific Objectives Covered (Statutory and Non-Statutory):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 1 – Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.• Year 1 - Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals).• Year 2 - Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.• Year 2 - Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.• Year 2 - Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats.• Year 4 - Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways• Year 4 - Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.• Year 4 - Pupils should explore possible ways of grouping a wide selection of living things that include animals and flowering plants and non-flowering plants. Pupils could begin to put vertebrate animals into groups such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.• Year 4 - Pupils might work scientifically by using and making simple guides or keys to explore and identify local plants and animals; making a guide to local living things; raising and answering questions based on their observations of animals and what they have found out about other animals that they have researched.• Year 5 - Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect, and a bird.	



- Year 5 - Pupils should study and raise questions about their local environment throughout the year. They should observe life-cycle changes in a variety of living things, for example, plants in the vegetable garden or flower border, and animals in the local environment.
- Year 5 - Pupils might work scientifically by observing and comparing the life cycles of plants and animals in their local environment with other plants and animals around the world (in the rainforest, in the oceans, in desert areas and in prehistoric times), asking pertinent questions and suggesting reasons for similarities and differences.
- Year 6 - Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants, and animals.
- Year 6 - Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

Linked ABPI Resources:		
Ellie Solves a Mystery	Format:	Online; Interactive
	Length:	15 – 20 minutes
	Themes and Objectives Covered:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Scientifically (Key Stage 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways ○ Observing closely, using simple equipment Performing simple tests ○ Identifying and classifying ○ Using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions 	

Other Complementing Resources:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM Learning – Animals, including Humans Resources - https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/library/collection/12726/year-1-animals-including-humans • Darwin Tree of Life Project - https://www.darwintreeoflife.org/ • DNA Detectives Podcast - https://insightandperspective.co.uk/publications/2021/4/23/the-dna-detectives-podcast • Woodland Trust – Different UK Habitats - https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/habitats/ • Wildlife Watch – Activities - https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities • Woodland Trust – British Newts Identification Guide - https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/02/british-newt-id/



- Gov.uk – Crested Newt Protection and Licenses - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/great-crested-newts-protection-surveys-and-licences>