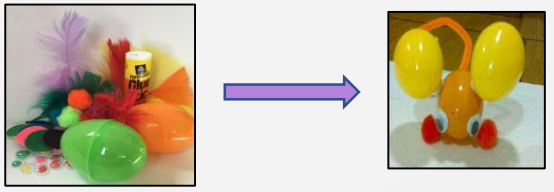
Create Your Own Microbes

In real life microbes are too small to see without a microscope but using the materials in your kit you can make your own giant microbes. Use the eggs like a cell wall, or the feathers and pipe cleaners for *cilia* or *flagella* (hair-like parts of microbes that help them move).

Need some inspiration? Check out the microbe pictures at:
http://microbiologyonline.org/about-microbiology/introducing-microbes



Microbe Organization (Classification)

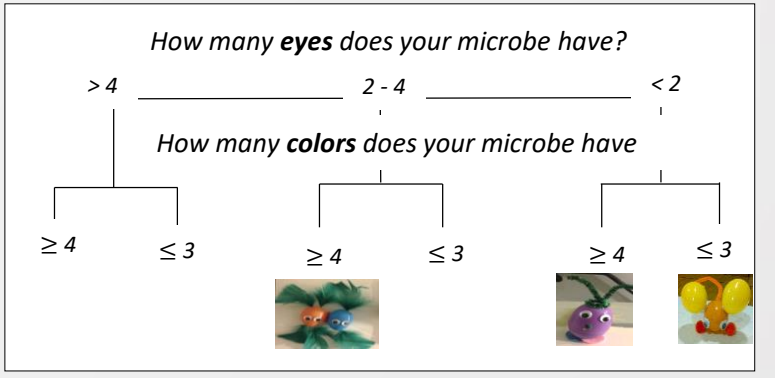
Look in the cupboards in your kitchen – how are things organized? Probably the plates and bowls are in one place, cups in another and knives, forks and spoons in a drawer. People often like to organize their "stuff" based on its shape, size and function. This helps us remember what we have and where to look when we need something.

A similar thing can be said about how scientists keep track of living creatures. They like to group them together based on their similarities: how they look, what they are made of (their DNA) and how they behave. This activity of classification is called **Taxonomy**.

What kind of microbe is that?

Taxonomy helps us keep track of all the organisms in the world and also helps us to understand where they came from, what they need to survive and how they can be helpful (or harmful) to people. Scientists classify microbes into 6 groups (bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, algae and archaea) based on where they live and what they do.

IDEA! Use the taxonomy (or classification) flow charts in your kit to classify the microbes you made. Use the blank flow chart to make up your own classification.



IDEA! Look at the other microbes in the final group. Are they the same for different flow charts? Why do you think this is?

IDEA! Check out https://www.inaturalist.org/ a neat website to observe, document and share the organisms in your own backyard.

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