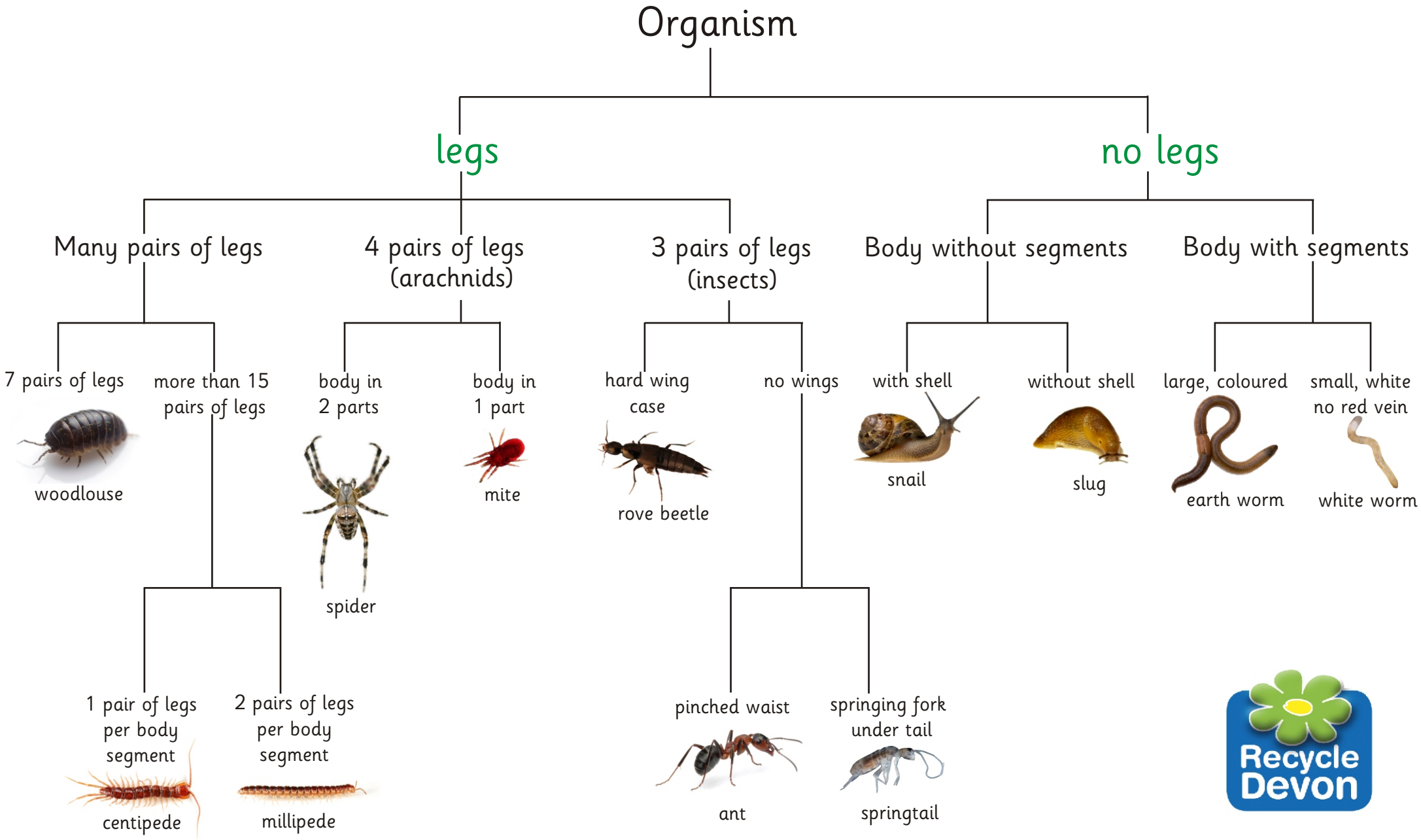Compost branching key