Burwell Village College Primary

Classification

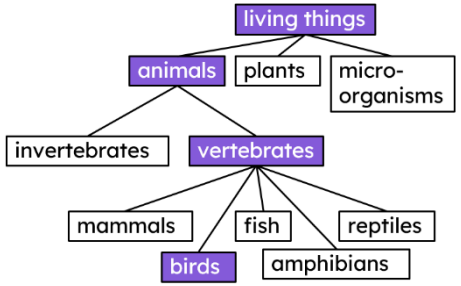
What is Classification?

Classification is the process of grouping living things based on their similarities and differences.

Living things are classified to:

- Make them easier to identify
- Show relationships between organisms
- Help scientists communicate clearly about species

- Living things can be grouped and classified based on shared characteristics.
- Classification helps scientists identify, name and study organisms.
- Scientists use observable features to decide how living things are grouped.
- Classification systems can change as new evidence is discovered.



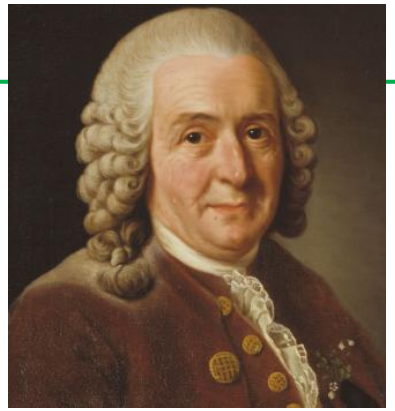
How Are Living Things Classified?

Living things are grouped using observable characteristics, such as:

- Body structure
- Number of legs
- Type of skin or covering
- Method of reproduction
- How they move or feed

Living things are first grouped into:

- Animals
- Plants
- Micro-organisms



Famous Scientist: Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778)

- Occupation: Scientist and botanist
- Carl Linnaeus developed the modern system of classification
- He created a system for naming organisms called binomial nomenclature
- Each species is given a two-part Latin name (genus and species)
- His system is still used by scientists today

Why is Linnaeus significant?

His work allowed scientists all over the world to classify and name living things in the same way even though they speak different languages.

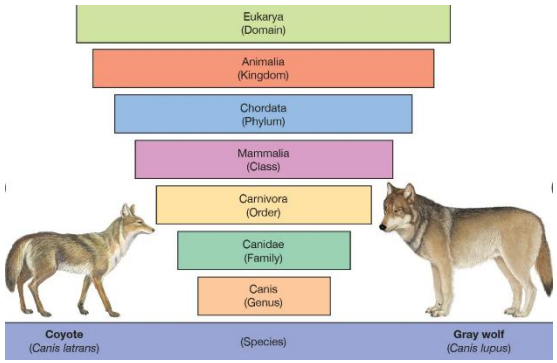
Vocabulary	
classification	grouping things by their characteristics
characteristic	something that makes a person or thing different from others
species	a group of similar organisms
genus	a group of closely related species
invertebrate	an animal without a backbone
vertebrate	an animal with a backbone

Classification Groups

Scientists group organisms into levels, including:

- Kingdom
- Class
- Order
- Family
- Genus
- Species

Organisms in the same species are very similar and can usually reproduce.



Why Classification Matters

- Helps scientists understand biodiversity
- Shows how organisms are related
- Supports research into evolution and adaptation
- Helps protect endangered species

Libbie Hyman (1888–1969)

- Libbie Hyman was an important scientist who studied animal classification
- She helped classify invertebrates (animals without backbones)
- Her work improved understanding of animal groups