

In this unit: Pupils will explore the work of Carl Linnaeus and classification of animals. They will use classification tools and group animals to create a 'Guess Who' style game and play it to make sure their classifications are correct.

Children should already know:

- that living things could be grouped in a variety of ways – amphibian, reptile, bird, insect, mammal and fish.
- that classification keys can be used to help group, identify and name living things.
- the different in life cycles of mammals, insects, amphibians and birds.
- about the life process of reproduction in some animals.

At the end of this unit, children will know:

- that there are as many as 10,000,000 different species on Earth.
- that Carl Linnaeus is the founder of taxonomy – a system of classifying and naming organisms.
- that there are seven levels of classification – kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus and species.
- that micro-organisms are invisible to the human eye but that they are everywhere around us.
- that most micro-organisms are useful, however some are harmful.
- that all living things can be classified and identified based on their characteristics.

Pupils could investigate:

- the work of Carl Linnaeus and the significance of his findings.
- how broad groupings of classification can be sub-divided.
- the classification of animals into commonly found invertebrates and vertebrates.
- unfamiliar animals and plants from a broad range of habitats, deciding where they belong in the classification system.
- why living things are placed in one group and not another.

The 7 Levels of Classification

Kingdom	5 widely accepted kingdoms for classification: monera, protists, fungi, plants and animals.
Phylum	Divisions based on shared physical characteristics among organisms.
Class	Classes are based on very important, and more detailed, similarities.
Order	Orders are based on characteristics listed on a taxonomy key.
Family	Groups of organisms that share certain adaptive traits. They have a common ancestry.
Genus	A way to describe the generic name for an organism.
Species	Species is the specific name given to a living organism.



Key Vocabulary

algae	a single cell or multi-cell plant-like organism that has no roots, stems or leaves and is often found in water
bacteria	tiny organisms that are everywhere around us
characteristics	the qualities or features that belong to a species and make them recognisable
classification	the arrangements of organisms into orderly groups based on their similarities and presumed evolutionary relationships
criteria	a factor on which something is judged
fungi	a group of spore-producing organisms feeding on organic matter – e.g. mushrooms and toadstools
micro-organism	a microscopic organism, especially a bacterium, virus or fungus
species	a group of closely related organisms that are very similar to each other and are usually capable of producing offspring
subdivided	divide something that has already been divided or grouped separately
taxonomy	the branch of science concerned with classification of organisms
virus	a small infectious group of cells that replicate inside something that is living

Key Questions:

- how do we decide what type of animal something is?
- how could we classify a [animal]?
- why is the work of Carl Linnaeus important in classifying animals?

7 Levels Example

