

ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION

There are tons of different types of animals in the world. They come in lots of different shapes, sizes, and colors. Some are teeny tiny, and others are huge. The blue whale is the largest animal to have ever existed and weighs an incredible 300,000 pounds. Its tongue alone can weigh as much as an elephant. The Etruscan shrew, on the other hand, weighs less than a jelly bean and is the world's smallest mammal. Even though these creatures are very different, they also have many things in common.

Can you think of what all animals have in common? All living creatures eat, move, breathe, grow, and have babies. For scientists to learn more about animals, they put them into different groups with similar characteristics. This is called **classification**. All living things are classified into large groups called kingdoms.

There are five kingdoms:

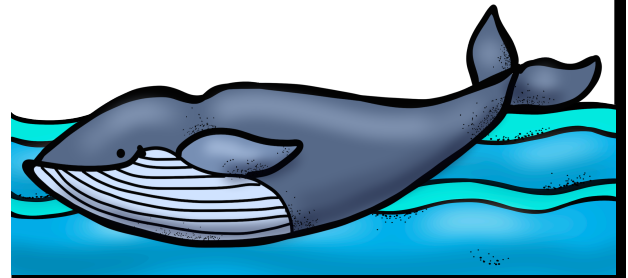
- Animals
- Plants
- Fungus
- Protist
- Bacteria



Scientists classify animals together because they have similar characteristics such as they eat other living things and have many cells. Plants have many cells too. However, they are different from animals because plants make their own food. Fungi have many cells also but take in food through their cell walls. Protists are mostly one-celled organisms. All bacteria are one-celled organisms without a nucleus.

There are seven levels of classification. As the groups get smaller and smaller, they include organisms that are more closely related.

As you can see from the chart, kingdoms are divided into groups called phyla. Phyla are divided into smaller groups called classes. Classes are divided into groups called orders. Orders are divided into families and so on. Each genus has one or more species. Each unique or different kind of living thing is a species.



CLASSIFICATIONS:

Scientists classify living things into smaller and smaller groups. As the groups become smaller, they have more and more things in common.

KINGDOM

PHYLUM

CLASS

ORDER

FAMILY

GENUS

SPECIES

Name: _____

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What does the word "classification" mean?

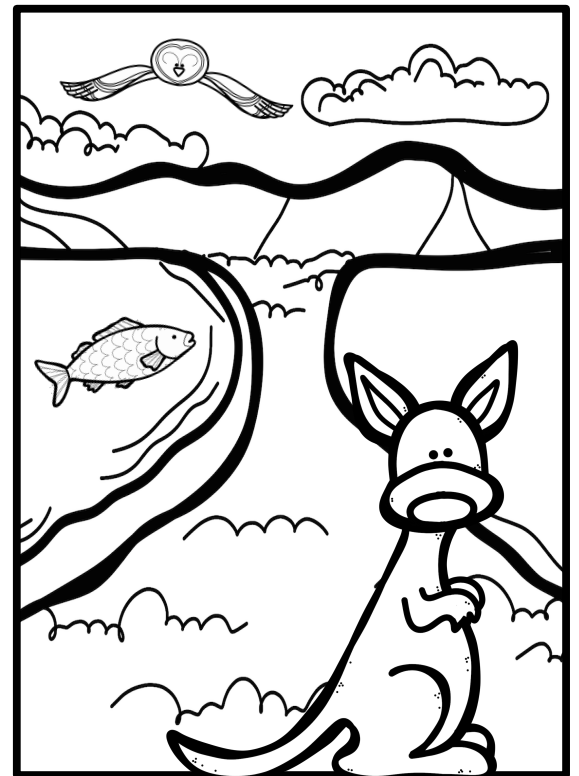
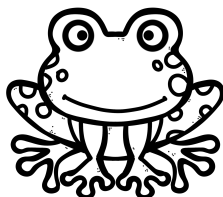
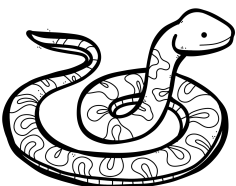
Why do you think that Scientists classify animals?

What is the largest group of living things?

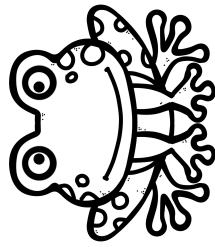
Which level includes only one kind of living thing?

Name the five kingdoms that all living things can be classified:

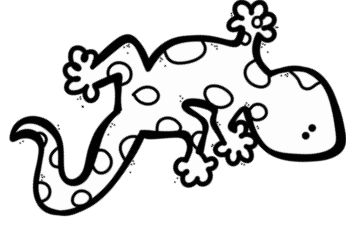
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Name: _____



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Complete the diagram.

