

Key Vocabulary

characteristics	Special qualities or appearances that make an individual or group of things different to others.
classify	To sort things into different groups.
taxonomist	A scientist who classifies different living things into categories.
key	A key is a series of questions about the characteristics of living things. A key is used to identify a living thing or decide which group it belongs to by answering 'yes' or 'no' questions.

Scientists, called Taxonomists, sort and group living things according to their similarities and differences.

Classification

In 1735, Swedish Scientist Carl Linnaeus first published a system for **classifying** all living things. An adapted version of this system is still used today: The Linnaeus System.

Living things can be **classified** by these eight levels. The number of living things in each level gets smaller until the one animal is left in its species level. This is how a dog would be classified.



Domain: Eukarya

jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, ladybird, daisy, rabbit, fox

Kingdom: Animalia

jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, ladybird, rabbit, fox

Phylum: Chordata

jackal, clownfish, cat, dog, rabbit, fox

Class: Mammalia

jackal, cat, dog, rabbit, fox

Order: Carnivora

jackal, cat, dog, fox

Family: Canidae

jackal, dog, fox

Genus: Canis

jackal, dog

Species: Lupus

dog

Each group allows scientists to observe and understand the **characteristics** of living things more clearly. They group similar things together then split the groups again and again based on their differences.

