

Science Y5/6 Autumn 2

Knowledge Organiser

How many different species are there on earth?

Scientists believe that there could be as many as **10 million different species** on Earth! It would be very hard to study the lives and behaviours of all these living things without grouping them together somehow.

Scientists sort and group living things according to their similarities and differences. This is called classification. Scientists who classify living things are called **taxonomists**.

Living Things and their Habitats

Who was Carl Linnaeus?

Carl Linnaeus was a Swedish scientist who believed it was very important to have a standard system of classification.

Linnaeus collected and examined over 40,000 specimens of plants, animals and shells. In 1735, he published his first edition of 'Systema Naturae', which described his system for classifying living things.



What are Micro-organisms?

Micro-organisms are very tiny living things. They are so small that they are not visible to the naked eye, so a microscope is needed to see them.

Micro-organisms can be found all around us. They can live on and in our bodies, in the air, in water and on the objects around us. They can be found in almost every habitat on Earth.

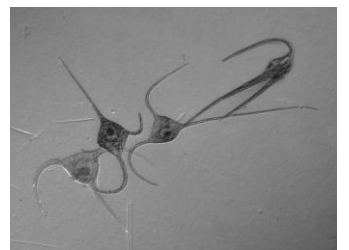


This is a magnified image of a household dust mite.



This image is a scanning electron micrograph of an influenza virus particle.

This microorganism could cause you to have the flu.



Plankton are microscopic organisms drifting in fresh or sea water, including plants and animals.