

Classifying Animals

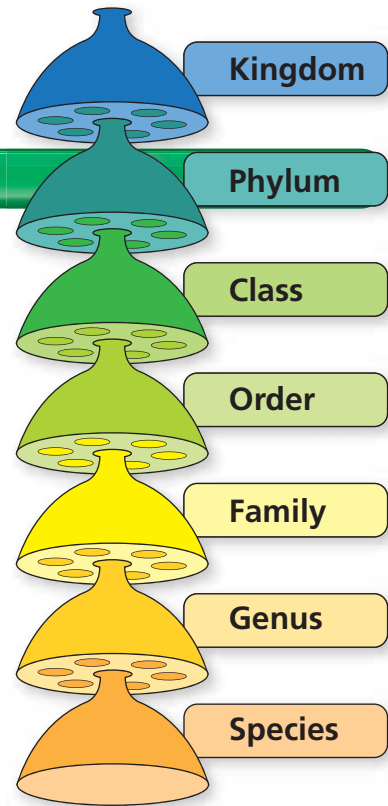
1 Getting Started

Biologists classify animals by placing them in phyla, or groups, with similar characteristics. Latin names, such as Chordata (having a spinal cord) or Arthropoda (having jointed limbs and rigid bodies) are used to describe these groups.

Biological classification is difficult, and scientists are still developing a complete system. There are seven main ranks of life on Earth; kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. However, scientists usually use more than these seven ranks to classify organisms.

Essential Question How does the classification of living organisms help you understand the similarities and differences of animals?

Write a report about how animals are classified. Choose several different animals and list the phylum, class, and order of each animal.



Wasp
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Hymenoptera
(membranous wing)

Sample: A bat is classified as an animal in the phylum Chordata, class Mammalia, and order Chiroptera. *Chiroptera* is a Greek word meaning “hand-wing.”

Bat
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Chiroptera
(hand-wing)



Monkey
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Primate (large brain)



Kangaroo
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Diprotodontia
(two front teeth)

2 Things to Include

- List the different classes of phylum Chordata. Have you seen a member of each class?
- List the different classes of phylum Arthropoda. Have you seen a member of each class?
- Show how you can use graphic organizers to help classify animals. Which types of graphic organizers seem to be most helpful? Explain your reasoning.
- Summarize the number of species in each phylum in an organized way. Be sure to include fractions, decimals, and percents.



Parrot
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Psittaciformes
(strong, curved bill)



Frog
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Amphibia
Order: Anura (no tail)



Spider
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Arachnida
Order: Araneae (spider)



Cougar
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Carnivora (meat eater)

3 Things to Remember

- Organize your report in a folder, and think of a title for your report.



Lobster
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Malacostraca
Order: Decapoda (ten footed)



Crocodile
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Reptilia
Order: Crocodylia
(pebble-worm)