

Classification System

Name: _____ Section: _____ Date: _____

Introduction

What makes a worm a worm? Why isn't a ringworm a worm? Is a sponge an animal? All of these questions can be answered through taxonomy, the science of naming and classifying organisms. Taxonomy arranges organisms into groups based on similarities. The most inclusive level in the taxonomic hierarchy is a kingdom which can be subdivided into phyla. The phyla can in turn be separated into smaller groups called classes. A class can be subdivided into families and a family into genera. A genus can be split into smaller groups called species.

Purpose

In this webquest, you will explore the classification system currently used to sort and categorize living organisms. You will focus on the kingdom Animalia and its diverse set of members as you explore the various levels at which organisms can be classified. You will be assigned a specific organism to investigate as you explore the classification system.

Procedure

- Visit the following website and answer questions 1 -4.

http://anthro.palomar.edu/animal/animal_1.htm

1. Why are classification systems useful?

2. What is Systema Naturae? Who wrote it and when?

3. What is binomial nomenclature and what two categories are used in a binomen?

4. What is your binomen or scientific name?