

Carolus Linnaeus' System for Classifying Organisms

Assignment – Teacher Edition

I. Multiple Choice – Select the best answer

1. The science of grouping living things based on their similarities or shared characteristics is called
 - a) Taxidermy
 - b) Taxonomy
 - c) Classification
 - d) Binomial Nomenclature

2. The first person to create a binomial naming system for living organisms was:
 - a) Carolus Linnaeus
 - b) Leonardo Da Vinci
 - c) Darwin
 - d) Aristotle

3. The scientific name for a muskox (a very hairy buffalo-looking creature from the high Arctic) is *Ovibos moschatus*. Which part of the name is the genus?
 - a) Ovibos
 - b) Moschatus
 - c) Both
 - d) Neither

4. In the Linnaeus classification system, organisms are classified based on
 - a) Similar behaviors
 - b) Similar morphology
 - c) Similar ancestry
 - d) All of the above

5. Scientific names are written in what language?
 - a) English
 - b) Greek
 - c) Arabic
 - d) Latin

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II. Describe the contributions Linnaeus made to taxonomy and classification.

III. Put the levels of classification in the correct order from largest (most kinds of organisms) to smallest (one kind of organism) CLASS, DOMAIN, GENUS, FAMILY, KINGDOM, ORDER, PHYLUM, SPECIES

IV. The table below shows the classification of four organisms. Use it to answer the questions that follow.

Level	House Cat	Mountain Lion	Domestic Dog	Human
Kingdom	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia
Phylum	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata
Class	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia
Order	Carnivora	Carnivora	Carnivora	Primates
Family	Felidae	Felidae	Canidae	Hominidae
Genus	<i>Felis</i>	<i>Felis</i>	<i>Canis</i>	<i>Homo</i>
Species	<i>domesticus</i>	<i>concolor</i>	<i>familiaris</i>	<i>sapiens</i>

- Which two organisms are most closely related? _____
Justify your answer _____
- What three levels do all four organisms have in common? _____
- Which levels includes organisms that have hair or fur and produce milk? _____
- Which levels includes animals with backbones? _____
- Write the scientific name for each of the organisms above. _____

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Answers

I. Multiple Choice – Select the best answer

1. The science of grouping living things based on their similarities or shared characteristics is called
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3. The scientific name for a muskox (a very hairy buffalo-looking creature from the high Arctic) is *Ovibos moschatus*. Which part of the name is the genus?
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 - b) Moschatus
 - c) Both
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 - a) Similar behaviors
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 - c) Similar ancestry
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II. Describe the contributions Linnaeus made to taxonomy and classification.

Linnaeus' most important contributions to taxonomy were:

1. A hierarchical classification system.
2. The system of binomial nomenclature.

III. Put the taxa in the correct order from largest (most kinds of organisms) to smallest (one kind of organism) CLASS, DOMAIN, GENUS, FAMILY, KINGDOM, ORDER, PHYLUM, SPECIES

1. Domain
2. Kingdom
3. Phylum
4. Class
5. Order
6. Family
7. Genus
8. Species

IV. Examine the table showing the classification of four organisms. Then answer the questions.

Taxon	House Cat	Mountain Lion	Domestic Dog	Human
Kingdom	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia
Phylum	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata
Class	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia
Order	Carnivora	Carnivora	Carnivora	Primates
Family	Felidae	Felidae	Canidae	Hominidae
Genus	<i>Felis</i>	<i>Felis</i>	<i>Canis</i>	<i>Homo</i>
Species	<i>domesticus</i>	<i>concolor</i>	<i>familiaris</i>	<i>sapiens</i>

1. Which two organisms are most closely related? **House Cat and Mountain Lion**
Justify your answer? **They both have the same genus**
2. What three taxa do all four organisms have in common? **Animalia, Chordata and Mammalia**
3. Which taxon includes organisms that have hair or fur and produce milk? **Mammalia**
4. Which taxon includes animals with backbones? **Chordata**
5. Write the scientific name for each of the organisms above.
 - A. House Cat (*Felis domesticus*)
 - B. Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor*)
 - C. Domestic Dog (*Canis familiaris*)
 - D. Human (*Homo sapiens*)