

Task 1 - Sorting Life Out

With over 1.5 million different types of living thing on Earth, scientists find it convenient to divide things into groups. The largest of these groups are called **kingdoms**. All living things belong to one of six different kingdoms: **plants, animals, bacteria, archaea, fungi** and **protocists**. The two largest kingdoms are the plant kingdom and the animal kingdom.

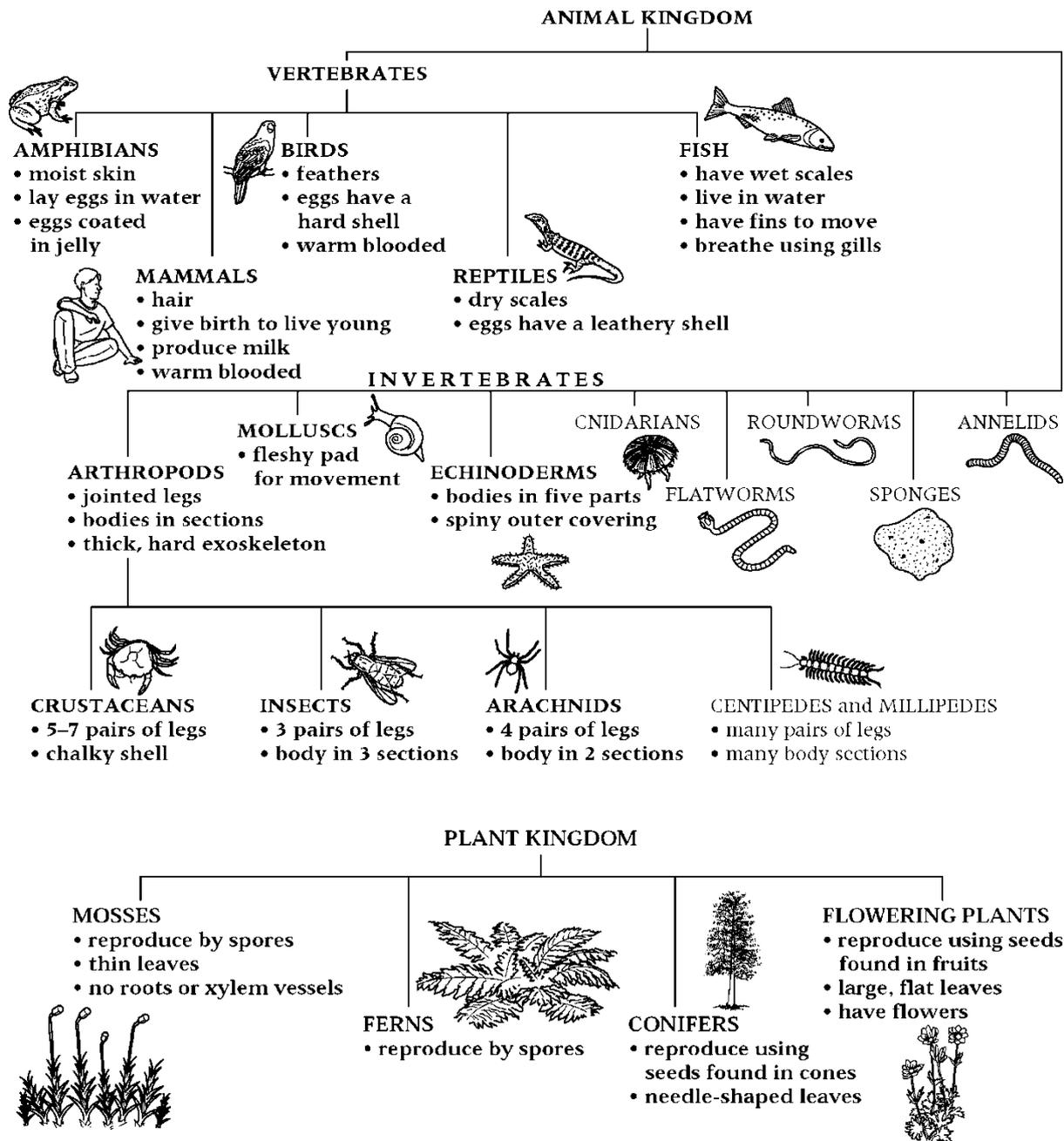
Each kingdom is split into more groups called **phyla** (singular = **phylum**). The animal kingdom is divided into seven phyla. Humans are in the **vertebrate phylum**. All the animals in the vertebrate phylum have skeletons and a backbone, and are known as **vertebrates**. The animals in the other six phyla do not have backbones and are called **invertebrates**.

The vertebrate phylum is divided into five **classes**: amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and reptiles. The classes are divided into even more groups!

The two smallest groups are the **genus** and the **species**. Lions belong to the genus *Panthera* which is a group containing only big cats. The species that lions belong to is called *leo*. Only lions are in the species *leo*. Scientists give lions a name in Latin, *Panthera leo*. This name is the same all over the world, whereas the word 'lion' is different in different languages. The Latin name avoids confusion.

This way of naming things, with two Latin words, was originally developed in 1735 by **Carl Linnaeus** (1707–1778). He used Latin because all the scientists of his day wrote in Latin!

- 1 What are the names of the six different kingdoms?
- 2 A kingdom is divided into more groups. What are these called?
- 3 What are animals that do not have a backbone called?
- 4 Write down **(a)** which kingdom, **(b)** which phylum and **(c)** which class humans belong to.
- 5 Why is classification so useful?
- 6 Humans are called *Homo sapiens* by scientists. Which one of these words is the genus name for humans?
- 7 Who developed this way of naming things?
- 8 What do you notice about the way that the genus and species names are written in the text above? *Hint*: there is more than one thing that you should notice!
- 9 Using a dictionary or science book, try to find out what the words '*Homo*' and '*sapiens*' mean.



- 1 Draw a table like the one below.
- 2 Look at the exhibition of organisms.
- 3 Write the name of each animal or plant in your table and decide which groups it is in. Use the diagram above to help you. For example, an ant is an animal, an arthropod and an insect.
- 4 Write down the reason why you have put it in the smallest of these groups. For example, an ant is an insect because it has six jointed legs.

Name	Kingdom	Group(s)	Reason
ant	animal	arthropod; insect	has six jointed legs