

Classification

Linnaeus recognized only two kingdoms - Animalia
- Plantae

Haeckel (1860) recognized 3 kingdoms - Animalia
- Plantae
- Protista

Robert Whittaker (1968) recognized 5 kingdoms - Animalia
- Plantae
- Fungi
- Protista
- Monera

Species: Accepted criterion for defining a species is that organisms of the same species interbreed under natural conditions.

Genus: Two species are brought together under the same genus. (For example the horse and the donkey)

Family: Similar genera (singular for genus) are brought together to form a family.

Order: Similar families are classified within an order.

Class: Orders with similar characteristics are grouped in a class

Phyla: Related classes are grouped together as divisions or phyla.
Divisions are used for plants and fungi, while phyla are used for animals and animal-like organisms.

Kingdom: This is the largest and broadest kingdom and is divided into plant and animal.

For Example: **The human**

- Kingdom: Animalia** Because it has the properties of animals
- Phyla: Chordata** Animals are then divided into at least 10 phyla, one of which is Chordata. Members of this Phylum all have a backbone at some time in their lives.
- Class: Mammalia** All animals that possess mammary glands and nurse their young.
- Order: Primata** All primates belong to this order, such as gorillas and monkeys
- Family: Hominidae** This family includes humans and humanlike creatures

Genus: Homo

Species: Homo sapiens

The scientific name of any organism has two elements and is called the **binomial name** . Humans have the binomial name of *Homo sapiens*. The name of any species is two words: the name of the genus followed by the “species modifier”. For humans, *Homo* is the genus and *sapiens* is the species modifier. The genus name is generally a noun, while the species modifier is an adjective. Thus, *Homo sapiens*, means “human knowing”.