☐ Activity 3: Organism Classification

Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish scientist living in the 1700s, is considered the father of modern **taxonomy** — the science of identifying and classifying organisms. Linnaeus grouped animals according to their shared physical characteristics. A more refined version of that classification is still commonly used today.

First, watch the video at the following web link. Note that although Domain is the first classification level, in this activity you will begin with Kingdom.

Classification
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9302/

To help remember the classification system, people sometimes make sentences using the first letter of each word in the system. A popular example is "King Philip Came Over From Great Spain." Your challenge is to come up with your own sentence that is more memorable or meaningful to you. Use the example as a guide (note that small words like "and" or "of" do not need to count). Remember the order — Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species — and then compose your sentence. Share it with a parent.

NOTE: This method of classifying organisms has changed over the years, and new ways of classifying organisms continue to be developed. For example, some methods use DNA analysis to find similarities among organisms. In this method, two organisms may seem very different but may in fact have a common ancestor and thus have many similarities at the genetic level.

Finally, use the following weblink to help you complete the two "Animal Classification" sheets.

Animal Diversity Web
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9301/ Enter the name of each animal in the search box on the right side of the page. Then, select your animal from the list provided. Your animal's classification information will be listed on the right side of the page.

Animal Classification I

Instructions: Fill in the chart based on the animals shown.

	Lives where? (land/sea/air)	Type of skin?	Size? (bigger/smaller than a person)	Kind of babies? (living/eggs)
 cow	land	hide with short fur	bigger	live babies
 dog				
 elephant				
 dolphin				
eagle 				
 fish				

Based on the information in your chart, which two animals on it are most similar and why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Which two animals are most different and why? _____

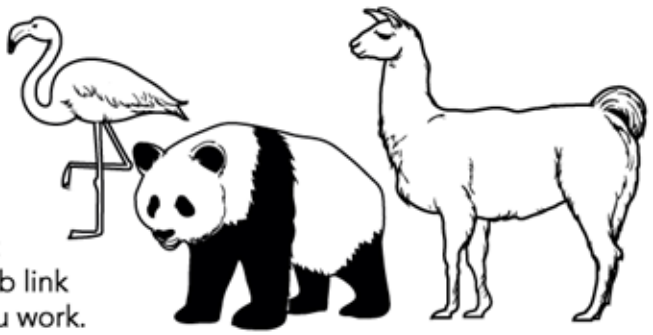
_____

_____

_____

_____

Animal Classification II



Instructions: Complete the chart based on 3 different animals. Pick 3 animals that aren't similar. Use this web link for Animal Diversity Web (found in your lesson) as you work.

	Animal 1	Animal 2	Animal 3
Kingdom			
Phylum			
Class			
Order			
Family			
Genus			
Species			

Now, using the chart, write the scientific name for each of your animals. Remember that the scientific name includes the Genus and Species with the Genus capitalized and the Species not capitalized.

Animal 1: _____

_____

Animal 2: _____

_____

Animal 3: _____

_____

PARENT SECTION

Activity 3: Organism Classification

This activity introduces the Linnaean taxonomy system, a scientific system for classifying and naming organisms. Your child will first watch a video about this system, and then she will learn a mnemonic sentence to help her remember the order of the classification system and then will come up with another sentence that she finds more memorable or meaningful to her. She can be creative with this. Ask her to share her sentence with you. Finally, your child will complete two sheets to practice using the taxonomy system to determine the names of animals.