

Week Beginning 11.05.20

L.O. I can research who Carl Linnaeus was and his contributions to science.


Last week you were looking at how to classify and find out about trees. This week you will look at Carl Linnaeus. Create a presentation, poem, rap or just a fact file about who he was and what he created. There is some information below for you to use.

Who Was Carl Linnaeus?

Carl Linnaeus was a Swedish scientist who believed it was very important to have a standard system of classification. At the time he was alive, in the 1700s, there was no agreed standard method.

Linnaeus collected and examined over 40,000 specimens of plants, animals and shells. In 1735, he published his first edition of 'Systema Naturae', which described his system for classifying living things.

Over the next several years, Linnaeus continued to publish new editions of 'Systema Naturae' that included more species of living things. His tenth edition was published in 1758 and is considered to be the most important edition.


A portrait of Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish scientist, wearing a red coat and a white wig. The background of the portrait is orange.

The Linnaean System

Linnaeus' original system of classification classified everything in nature into a hierarchy.

He proposed that there were three large groups, called kingdoms, into which the whole of nature could fit. These kingdoms were plants, animals and minerals. He then split each kingdom into smaller and smaller groups, or levels.

Today, the Linnaean system is only used to classify living things, so it does not include minerals. Furthermore, as new living things have been discovered, scientists have had to add additional levels in the hierarchy. A new level above kingdom, called domain, has also been introduced.

An illustration showing a bat flying above a butterfly perched on a potted plant. The background is light green.

The Linnaean System

This diagram shows the levels of classification in the Linnaean system.

Living things can be classified by following the levels in this system. The number of living things in each group gets smaller and smaller, until there will just be one type of animal in the species group.

Domain

Kingdom

Phylum

Class

Order

Family

Genus

Species

The Linnaean System

There are 3 domains: Archaea, Bacteria and Eukarya. Plants and animals are all eukaryotes.

There are 6 kingdoms, including animals, plants, fungi and bacteria.

The 6 kingdoms are then split into phyla. There are more than 30 phyla in the animal kingdom. Phylum chordata includes all vertebrates.

Each phyla is divided into classes. The chordata phylum includes amphibians, birds, mammals, reptiles and fish.

The order and the family divide into further groups.

The genus includes species that are very closely related and share unique body structures.

A species is defined as a group of animals that can reproduce to produce fertile offspring.

Domain

Kingdom

Phylum

Class

Order

Family

Genus

Species