

# Classification of living organisms

## Linnaean system of classification

Living organisms are classified into groups depending on their structure and characteristics. Carl Linnaeus developed this system in the eighteenth century. The classification of species allows the subdivision of living organisms into smaller and more specialized groups.

### Kingdoms

The first division of living things in the classification system is to put them into one of five **kingdoms**.

The five kingdoms are:

- **animals** (all multicellular animals)
- **plants** (all green plants)
- **fungi** (moulds, mushrooms, yeast)
- **protists** (Amoeba, Chlorella and Plasmodium)
- **prokaryotes** (bacteria, blue-green algae)

### Further divisions

Living things can then be ranked according to:

- **phylum**
- **class**
- **order**
- **family**
- **genus**
- **species**

**Phylum follows Kingdoms and has many different organisms, including three examples below:**

- Chordata, which have backbones
- Arthropod, which have jointed legs and an exoskeleton