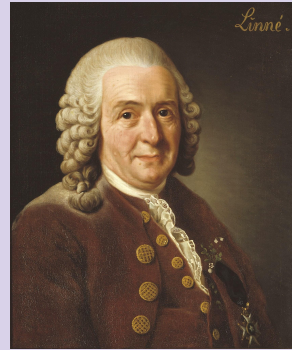


Year 6 Science: What characteristics can be used to classify things?

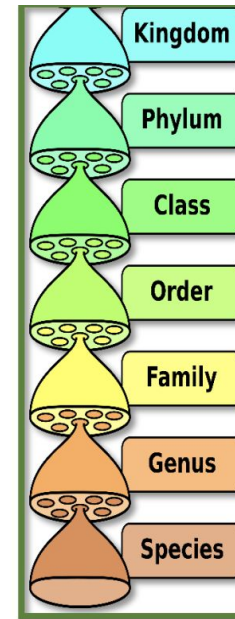


Key Vocabulary

Characteristics	Special qualities or appearances that make an individual or group of things different to others.
Classify	To sort things into different groups
Taxonomist	A scientist who classifies different living things into categories.
Key	A key is a series of questions about the characteristics of living things. A key is used to identify a living thing or decide which group it belongs to by answering 'yes' or 'no' questions.
Microorganism	An organism that is so small that it is microscopic (invisible to the naked eye).
Vertebrates / Invertebrates	Invertebrates do not have a backbone. 97% of creatures belong to this group. Vertebrates like humans and birds do have a backbone.

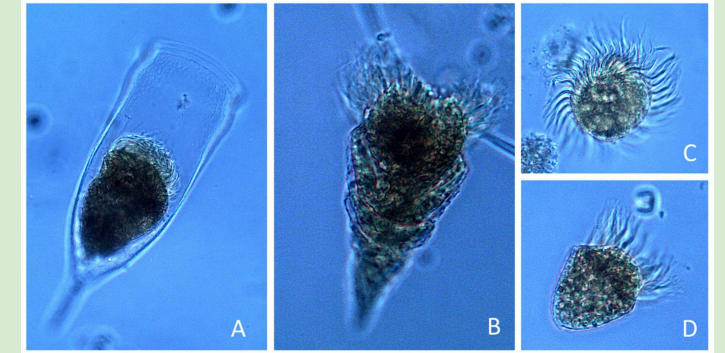


In 1735, Swedish scientist **Carl Linnaeus** first published a system for classifying all living things. An adapted version of this system is still used today: The Linnaeus System.

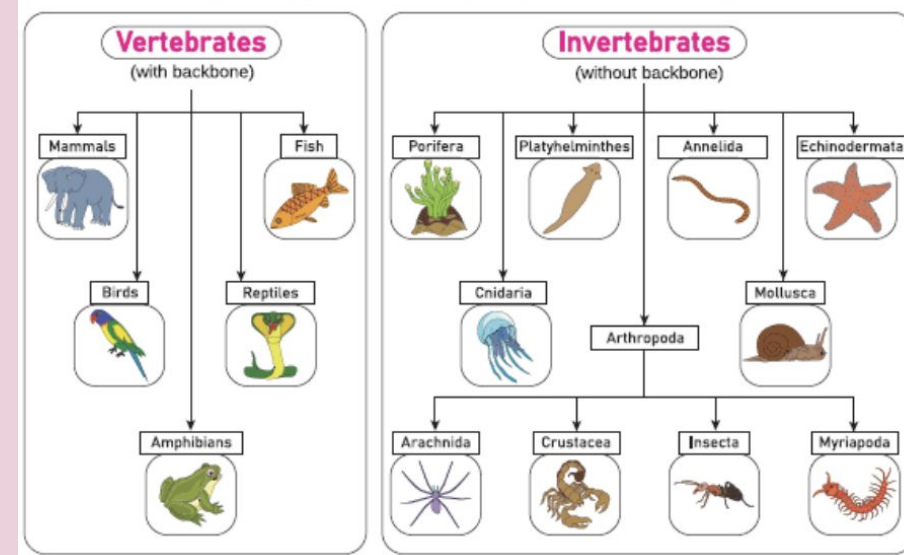


Microorganisms

- Microorganisms are very tiny organisms where a microscope has to be used to see them.
- Examples of microorganisms include dust mites, bacteria and fungi, such as mould.
- Some microorganisms can be helpful in certain situations. Others can be harmful, and their spread needs to be controlled or contained.



Classification Key



Helpful Microbiomes

- Bacteria - cheese
- Yeast - wine
- Bacteria - yoghurt
- Yeast - bread dough
- Penicillium fungi - antibiotics

Unhelpful Microbiomes

- Bacteria - salmonella
- Bacteria - plaque
- Bacteria - chicken pox
- Fungi - Athlete's foot
- Fungi - mould

