CLASSIFICATION OF LIVING THINGS

WORKSHEETS + DICHOTOMOUS KEY


My name

Climb the Ladder

Write the levels in order, biggest group first.

Scientists sort living things into eight groups. Each gr
it. Write the levels in order from the biggest group t

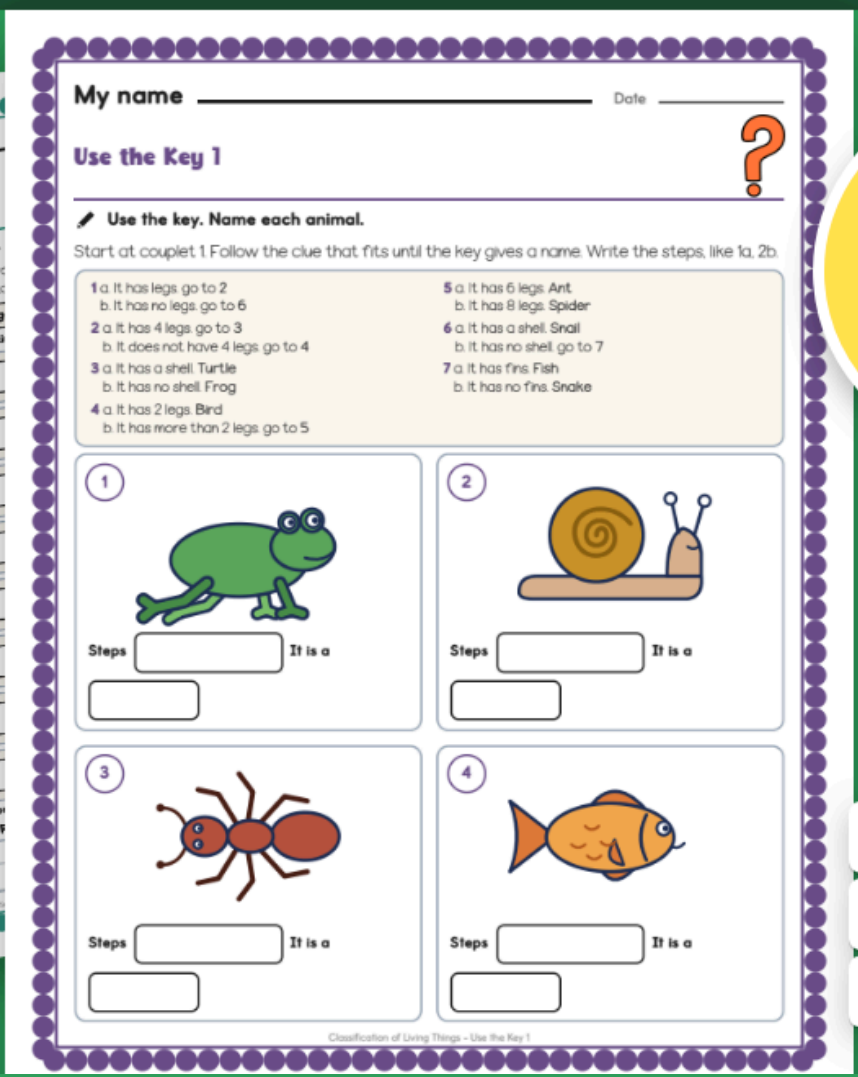
Class Domain Family Genus King

Biggest group: the most ki

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

Smallest gro

A saying to remember the order: Dear King P


My name _____ Date _____

Use the Key 1

Use the key. Name each animal.

Start at couplet 1. Follow the clue that fits until the key gives a name. Write the steps, like 1a, 2b.

1 a. It has legs. go to 2
b. It has no legs. go to 6

2 a. It has 4 legs. go to 3
b. It does not have 4 legs. go to 4

3 a. It has a shell. Turtle
b. It has no shell. Frog

4 a. It has 2 legs. Bird
b. It has more than 2 legs. go to 5

5 a. It has 6 legs. Ant
b. It has 8 legs. Spider

6 a. It has a shell. Snail
b. It has no shell. go to 7

7 a. It has fins. Fish
b. It has no fins. Snake

1 Steps _____ It is a _____

2 Steps _____ It is a _____

3 Steps _____ It is a _____

4 Steps _____ It is a _____

Classification of Living Things – Use the Key 1

GRADES 6-9

Fungi

Plantae

Animalia

Bright Path Sped

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- The name line, every answer box, every ruled work box and every check box on the student pages are type-in fields, and so are the tracker, class grid, team note and family page. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is mostly black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

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PREVIEW

How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a word or number. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart for writing. One idea to a line.
- **The check box.** TRUE or FALSE, yes or not yet, or how sure: click or mark.
- **The key.** A dichotomous key gives two clues in each couplet. A clue ends in either a number (go to that couplet) or a name.
- **The cut line.** Six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches, edge to edge: one cut across and two down.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Ladder and names	3 ladder + 1 compare + 2 name pages	Put the eight levels in order, classify four animals, count shared levels, write scientific names.
Domains and kingdoms	Reference, chart, match	Name the domains, sort six kingdoms by nucleus, cells and food.
Sort	4 sorts, 24 pieces	Domains, kingdoms, true or false, and animals by number of legs.
Dichotomous key	4 pages, 8 drawn animals	Use the key, fill in a trait table, then write a key of their own.
Read and check	3 readings, 3 word pages	Passage questions, word matches, word box sentences, short answer, quizzes.

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 36 to 40.

Checked by computer

The ladders, the kingdom traits and the key were each built from one table in the file. The key was run on every drawn animal to make sure it ends on the right name, and the answer keys were written from the same tables.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

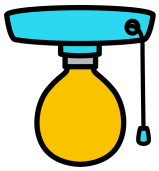
Room to work

Work boxes hold two or three lines. If a student needs more room, hand over one page a day, or let students write on scrap paper and copy the answer into the box.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Climb the Ladder

Write the levels in order, biggest group first.

Scientists sort living things into eight groups. Each group holds fewer kinds than the one above it. Write the levels in order from the biggest group to the smallest.

Class Domain Family Genus Kingdom Order Phylum Species

Biggest group: the most kinds of living things

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Smallest group: one kind of living thing

A saying to remember the order: Dear King Philip Came Over For Good Soup. Write your own.

_____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Classify It 1: Human and Gray Wolf

Fill in the ladder for each animal.

The first two levels are filled in. Use the word box for the rest. A word can be used twice, and some words are not used.

Arthropoda	**Canidae**	**Canis**	**Carnivora**	**Chordata**	**Hominidae**	**Homo**	**Insecta**	**lupus**	**Mammalia**	**Primates**	**sapiens**

Human

Domain	Eukarya
Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	
Class	
Order	
Family	
Genus	
Species	

Gray wolf

Domain	Eukarya
Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	
Class	
Order	
Family	
Genus	
Species	

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Closest Relatives

Count the levels each pair shares.

Start at Domain and count the levels that match. Stop when the names first differ. Two animals that share more levels are closer relatives.

Animal	Domain	Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
Human	Eukarya	Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Primates	Hominidae	Homo	sapiens
Gray wolf	Eukarya	Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Canidae	Canis	lupus
Coyote	Eukarya	Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Canidae	Canis	latrans
Lion	Eukarya	Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Felidae	Panthera	leo
House cat	Eukarya	Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Felidae	Felis	catus
Honey bee	Eukarya	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Apidae	Apis	mellifera
Monarch butterfly	Eukarya	Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	Danaus	plexippus

1. Gray wolf and Coyote

Levels the same ☐

2. Lion and House cat

Levels the same ☐

3. Gray wolf and Lion

Levels the same ☐

4. Human and Gray wolf

Levels the same ☐

5. Honey bee and Monarch butterfly

Levels the same ☐

6. Human and Honey bee

Levels the same ☐

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Three Domains

Read the cards. Name each domain.

Every living thing belongs to one of three domains. Domain is the biggest group on the ladder.

Archaea

One cell. No nucleus. Many live in extreme places, such as hot springs and very salty lakes.

Bacteria

One cell. No nucleus. They live almost everywhere: soil, water, and on and in other living things.

Eukarya

Cells have a nucleus. One cell or many. Includes protists, fungi, plants and animals.

Try it. Which domain?

1. A mushroom. Its cells have a nucleus. **Domain** _____

2. One cell, no nucleus, found living in a very salty lake. **Domain** _____

3. One cell, no nucleus, living in soil and helping break down dead leaves. **Domain** _____

4. An oak tree. **Domain** _____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Kingdom Chart

Fill in the chart for each kingdom.

Use the kingdom cards on the page before. Write one answer in each box.

Nucleus: yes, no Cells: one, many, one or many Food: makes its own, takes in, both

Kingdom	Nucleus?	Number of cells	Gets food by
Archaebacteria			
Eubacteria			
Protista			
Fungi			
Plantae			
Animalia			

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 2: Kingdoms

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Each piece names a living thing. Paste it in the box for its kingdom.

Plantae	Animalia	Fungi

PREVIEW

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, one cut across and two cuts down.

Earthworm	Mushroom	Oak tree
Bread mold	Moss	Salmon

Which kingdom was easiest to sort? Why?

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 4: Count the Legs

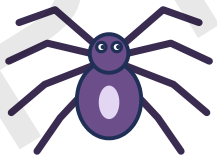
Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Count the legs on each animal. Paste it in the box that matches.

No legs	4 legs	6 or 8 legs

PREVIEW

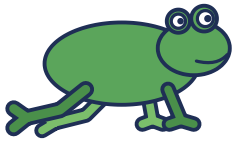
Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, one cut across and two cuts down.



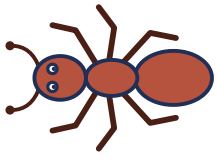
Spider



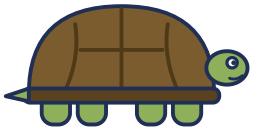
Fish



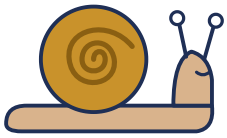
Frog



Ant



Turtle



Snail

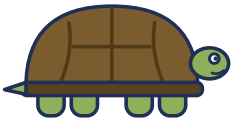
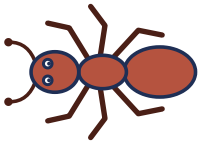
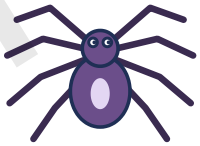
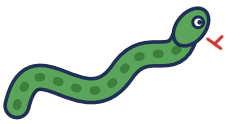
Which animal was hardest to count? Why?

My name _____ Date _____

Trait Table

Look at each animal. Fill in its traits.

Look at the drawing. Count the legs. Write yes or no for a shell and for fins. Then a key can use these traits.

			How many legs?	Shell? yes or no	Fins? yes or no
1		Fish			
2		Turtle			
3		Ant			
4		Bird			
5		Snail			
6		Spider			
7		Frog			
8		Snake			

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Reading 1: Why We Classify

Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Why We Classify Living Things

Earth has millions of kinds of living things. To study them, scientists sort them into groups. This sorting is called classification. Scientists group living things by the traits they share, such as how their cells are built, how many cells they have, and how they get food.

Classification helps scientists in three ways. It gives every organism a name that scientists everywhere can use. It makes so many kinds of living things easier to study. And it shows which organisms are closely related. The science of naming and grouping living things is called taxonomy.

1. What is classification?

- [ ] **Counting how many animals live in one place**
- [ ] **Sorting living things into groups by shared traits**
- [ ] **Growing plants in a garden**

2. Which is NOT a reason scientists classify living things?

- [ ] **To use names that scientists share**
- [ ] **To show which organisms are related**
- [ ] **To choose which animal makes the best pet**

3. Name two traits scientists use to sort living things.

4. Why is it helpful that scientists everywhere share the same names?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Word Match 1

Write the letter that matches each word.

Read each word. Write the letter of its meaning. Two meanings match nothing.

1	Classification	A	A group of closely related species, and the first part of a scientific name.
2	Taxonomy	B	Made of many cells.
3	Domain	C	Sorting living things into groups by the traits they share.
4	Kingdom	D	The smallest group on the ladder: one kind of organism.
5	Genus	E	The largest group on the classification ladder.
6	Species	F	Made of one cell.
		G	The science of naming and classifying living things.
		H	The group just below domain on the ladder.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Word Box Sentences

Use the word box to finish each sentence.

Pick a word from the box. Write it in the answer box.

autotroph	**classification**	**dichotomous**	**eukaryotes**	**genus**	**heterotroph**	**prokaryotes**	**species**

1. A plant is an _____ because it makes its own food. ☐
2. A mushroom is a _____ because it cannot make its own food. ☐
3. Bacteria are _____ because their cells have no nucleus. ☐
4. Animal cells have a nucleus, so animals are _____. ☐
5. The first part of a scientific name is the _____. ☐
6. Sorting living things into groups is called _____. ☐
7. The smallest group on the ladder is the _____. ☐
8. A _____ key uses paired clues to name an organism. ☐

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Quiz 2

Answer each question.

1. Which level comes just before Genus? **Answer** _____

2. Which kingdom has one cell, no nucleus, and lives in extreme places such as very salty lakes? **Answer** _____

3. How many kingdoms are in the six-kingdom system? **Answer** _____

4. Which kingdom absorbs its food from what it grows on? **Answer** _____

5. How many levels are on the classification ladder? **Answer** _____

6. In which domain is the kingdom Animalia? **Answer** _____

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Check My Own Work

Check your own work. Mark yes or not yet.

1	I can name the eight levels in order.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
2	I can tell which of two animals is the closer relative.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
3	I can write a scientific name with the capital letters in the right place.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
4	I can name the three domains.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
5	I can tell the six kingdoms apart by their traits.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
6	I can use a dichotomous key to name an animal.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
7	I can write clues for a key of my own.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
8	I can explain why scientists use scientific names.	☐ yes	☐ not yet

The part of classification I can do now is...

The part I still need help with is...

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Dichotomous Key

Pages 21 to 24. Each animal was run through the printed key by program: every one ends on its own name. Accept steps written with commas or arrows.

Item	Problem	Answer
p21 #1	Frog	1a, 2a, 3b
p21 #2	Snail	1b, 6a
p21 #3	Ant	1a, 2b, 4b, 5a
p21 #4	Fish	1b, 6b, 7a

Item	Problem	Answer
p22 #1	Bird	1a, 2b, 4a
p22 #2	Spider	1a, 2b, 4b, 5b
p22 #3	Snake	1b, 6b, 7b
p22 #4	Turtle	1a, 2a, 3a

Item	Animal	Legs; shell; fins
p23 #1	Fish	0; no; yes
p23 #2	Turtle	4; yes; no
p23 #3	Ant	6; no; no
p23 #4	Bird	2; no; no
p23 #5	Snail	0; yes; no
p23 #6	Spider	8; no; no
p23 #7	Frog	4; no; no
p23 #8	Snake	0; no; no

Build Your Own Key (page 24)

Sample key for Fish, Frog, Bird and Snail: **1a.** It has legs: go to 2. **1b.** It has no legs: go to 3. **2a.** It has 4 legs: Frog. **2b.** It has 2 legs: Bird. **3a.** It has a shell: Snail. **3b.** It has fins: Fish. Answers vary. Check that every animal is reached by exactly one path and that each clue is something you can see in the drawing.

If a student ends on the wrong name

Have the student say each clue out loud and point at the drawing. The most common slip is counting the two back legs of the frog as one, or reading the antennae of the ant as legs.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Quizzes, Exit Tickets, Sorts

Pages 32 to 34. Accept a correct answer written in another order or with a different capital letter.

Item	Problem	Answer
p32 #1	What is the largest group on the classification ladder?	Domain
p32 #2	What is the smallest group on the ladder?	Species
p32 #3	Which level comes just after Class?	Order
p32 #4	Which domain has cells with a nucleus?	Eukarya
p32 #5	Write the scientific name for humans.	Homo sapiens
p32 #6	Which kingdom has many cells and makes its own food?	Plantae
p33 #1	Which level comes just before Genus?	Family
p33 #2	Which kingdom has one cell, no nucleus, and lives in extreme places such as very salty lakes?	Archaebacteria

Item	Problem	Answer
p33 #3	How many kingdoms are in the six-kingdom system?	6
p33 #4	Which kingdom absorbs its food from what it grows on?	Fungi
p33 #5	How many levels are on the classification ladder?	8
p33 #6	In which domain is the kingdom Animalia?	Eukarya
p34 #1	Which level comes just after Kingdom?	Phylum
p34 #2	Write the genus of the scientific name Canis lupus.	Canis
p34 #3	Which kingdom do mushrooms belong to?	Fungi

PREVIEW

Sort answers, cut and paste

- Cut and paste A (page 17). Archaea: Lives in a very hot spring, Lives in very salty water; Bacteria: Lives in soil, Lives in yogurt; Eukarya: A mushroom, A fish.
- Cut and paste B (page 18). Plantae: Oak tree, Moss; Animalia: Earthworm, Salmon; Fungi: Mushroom, Bread mold.
- Cut and paste C (page 19). TRUE: Plants make their own food., Archaebacteria cells have no nucleus., Animals are made of many cells.; FALSE: Fungi make their own food., Eubacteria cells have a nucleus., Plants are made of one cell..
- Cut and paste D (page 20). No legs: Fish, Snail; 4 legs: Frog, Turtle; 6 or 8 legs: Spider, Ant.

Team Note

Use this page between team meetings or when a student moves classes, to hand off what changed without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with a blank for the number or the wording your team already uses.

Student _____ Team member _____ Date _____

Page type	Covered since last note (Y/N)	Items right	Still blank
Ladder			
Closest and names			
Domains and kingdoms			
Sorts			
Key			
Reading			
Words			
Quizzes and exits			

What I saw (observable, not a conclusion)

- Put ___ of 8 levels in order without a prompt.
- Named ___ of ___ drawn animals with the key (pages 21 and 22).
- Matched ___ of ___ kingdoms to their clues (page 16).
- Wrote a scientific name with the capitals right: yes / no / with a reminder.

Next step

- Next page or set: ___, because ___ (what you saw).
- What to try in another class or at home: ___.
- What to keep doing because it is working: ___.
- Anything for the team meeting to decide: ___ (this page records what happened, never a label or a plan).

Summary, in one or two sentences, for whoever reads this next

A filled-in line, for reference

"Named 3 of 4 animals with the key on 10/22. Next step: finger-trace each couplet and write the step letters before choosing a name." That is the detail this page is built for. It matches the filled example on page 45.

PREVIEW

Maya's Tracker (Invented Student)

Maya R. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 41.

Student: Maya R. (an invented student)

Teacher: Mr. Okafor (invented)

Month: October

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
7	Climb the Ladder	8	7	10/6	Swapped Class and Order
8	Classify It 1: Human and Gray Wolf	12	12	10/7	-
9	Classify It 2: Lion and House Cat	12	-	-	-
10	Closest Relatives	6	4	10/9	Stopped counting a level early
11	Scientific Names	4	4	10/10	-
12	Fix the Name	6	5	10/13	Left a capital on the species
13	Three Domains	4	4	10/14	-
14	Six Kingdoms	6	5	10/15	Wrote Bacteria for Protista
15	Kingdom Chart	18	14	10/16	Cells column mixed up for fungi
16	Match the Kingdom	6	6	10/17	-
17	Cut and Paste 1: Domains	6	5	10/20	Archaea and Bacteria swapped
18	Cut and Paste 2: Kingdoms	6	-	-	-
19	Cut and Paste 3: True or False	6	-	-	-
20	Cut and Paste 4: Count the Legs	6	6	10/21	-
21	Use the Key 1	4	3	10/22	Skipped a couplet
22	Use the Key 2	4	-	-	-
23	Trait Table	24	22	10/23	Two shell answers missed
25	Reading 1: Why We Classify	4	3	10/24	Short answer left blank
26	Reading 2: Two-Part Names	4	-	-	-
27	Reading 3: Three Domains	4	-	-	-
28	Word Match 1	6	5	10/27	Mixed up genus and species
29	Word Match 2	6	-	-	-
30	Word Box Sentences	8	-	-	-
32	Quiz 1	6	5	10/28	Missed the scientific name
33	Quiz 2	6	-	-	-
34	Exit Tickets	3	3	10/29	-

How to read it

Maya R. has done **17 of 26** scored pages and got **113 of 129** items right with no prompt. **6** pages were all right and **11** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is Closest Relatives (4 of 6). That is where the next practice goes. The 9 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.

PREVIEW