

ANIMAL KINGDOM

 Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- understand the classification of animal kingdom.
- identify and study the different groups of animals.
- list out the general characteristics of animals based on grades of organization, types of symmetry, coelom and various body activity.
- recognize that binomial classification has Latin and Greek words.
- identify the first name as genus and second name as species.
- recall the salient features of each phylum.

Introduction

The variety of living organisms surrounding us is incomprehensible. Nearly 1.5 million species of organism which have been described are different from one another. The uniqueness is due to the diversity in the life forms whether it is microbes, plants or animals. Every organism exhibits variation in their external appearance, internal structure and behavior, mode of living etc. This versatile nature among the living animals forms the basis of diversity. The diversity among the living organisms can be studied in an effective way by arranging animals in an orderly and systematic manner. The study of various organisms would be difficult without a suitable method of classification.

The method of arranging organism into groups on the basis of similarities and differences is called **classification**. Taxonomy is the science of classification which makes the study of wide variety of organisms easier. It helps us to

understand the relationship among different group of animals. The first systematic approach to the classification of living organisms was made by a Swedish botanist, Carolus Linnaeus. He generated the standard system for naming organisms in terms of genus, species and more extensive groupings using Latin terms.

17.1 Classification of Living Organisms

Classification is the ordering of organism into groups on the basis of their similarities, dissimilarities and relationships. The five kingdom classification are Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plantae and Animalia. These groups are formed based on cell structure, mode of nutrition, body organization and reproduction. On the basis of hierarchy of classification, the organisms are separated into smaller and smaller groups which form the basic unit of classification.