

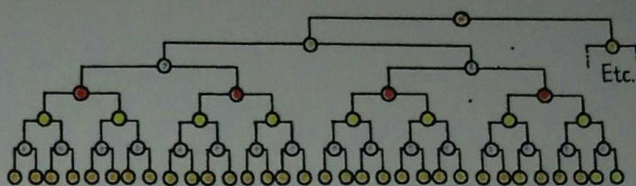
Classification

Classification is organising living things into groups, based on their characteristics (what they look like) and how closely related genetically they are.

The biggest groups are called **kingdoms**. Altogether there are five kingdoms of organisms called **plants, animals, fungi, protocists and prokaryotes**.

Each kingdom is **subdivided** into smaller and smaller groups of organisms that have **common characteristics**.

Kingdom
Phylum
Class
Order
Family
Genus
Species



The descending groups from the kingdom are called **phylum, class, order, family, genus and species**.

Species that share common characteristics are grouped as a **genus**. Different groups of genus, called **genera**, that share characteristics are grouped as a **family** and so on up to the level of the kingdom.

So a genus contains several species with similar features.

The table below shows the relationships between the different groups for the **animal kingdom** and shows how the **African lion** is classified within these groups.

classification level	phylum	class	order	family	genus	species
for African lions	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Felidae	Panthera	leo
other phyla in the kingdom Animalia include: Porifera (e.g. sponges) Mollusca (e.g. snails)	other classes in the phylum Chordata include: Reptalia (e.g. snakes) Amphibia (e.g. frogs)	other orders in the class Mammalia include: Rodentia (e.g. rats) Cetacea (e.g. whales)	other families in the order Carnivora include: Canidae (dogs) Ursidae (bears)	other genera in the family Felidae include: Felis (domestic cats) Puma (mountain lions)	other species in the genus Panthera include: pardus (leopard) tigris (tiger)	

rod-like back

other examples of groups at this level

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 1 of 1

In the animal kingdom, the phylum, **chordata** includes all animals that have a **supporting rod like structure** going up the back of the body. In vertebrates this forms the **backbone**.

As each classification level is subdivided to the next level the organisms increasingly share similar characteristics. This process decreases the number of organisms in each classification level. So a **kingdom** has the **biggest** number of organisms and the level **species** has the **least** number of organisms.