

The Binomial System for Naming Species.

The **binomial system** gives each species a **two part** Latin name. The **first** part of the name refers to the **genus** the organism belongs to and the **second** part refers to the **species**.

Read

E.g. Humans are known as *Homo sapiens*.
Homo is the genus that they belong to
and *sapiens* is the species.

The binomial system has helped scientists to:

- **Identify species** – this avoids confusion where common names mean **different things in different countries**. The binomial system is a **universal language** and allows scientists to communicate **clearly** whatever their language.
- **Study Species** – by **identifying** and **naming** species scientists can **share information** on them.

Scientists share information by **writing papers** that are published in journals. Papers are read and reviewed by **other scientists** who say whether the scientific evidence is **good enough** to be published.

- **Conserve species** - by identifying **different species** and their **population numbers**, scientists can decide if the species needs **protecting**.

Without the binomial system scientists could presume that two **similar-looking** organisms are the **same species**, when they are actually **different**. In this case one of the species could be **endangered**, but would not be protected because the scientists have assumed they are the same species with a healthy population.

- **Target conservation efforts**. We can protect areas like the **tropical rainforests** that have a great variety (**biodiversity**) of different species – identified of course by the binomial system!!

Protection of these areas will help conserve **huge numbers** of different species and prevent them being **destroyed** or becoming **extinct**.

Importance of biodiversity.

Biodiversity is important because we obtain many **products** from living things, like **food** and **medicines**. The more species there are the **more choice** we have today and in the future.

Biodiverse areas are much better at recovering from **natural disasters** (e.g. floods) than less diverse areas.

Q1. Why are biodiverse areas more likely to recover from a natural disaster?

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