

The Six Kingdoms Learning Guide



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Phone: 800-507-0966
Fax: 800-507-0967
www.newpathlearning.com

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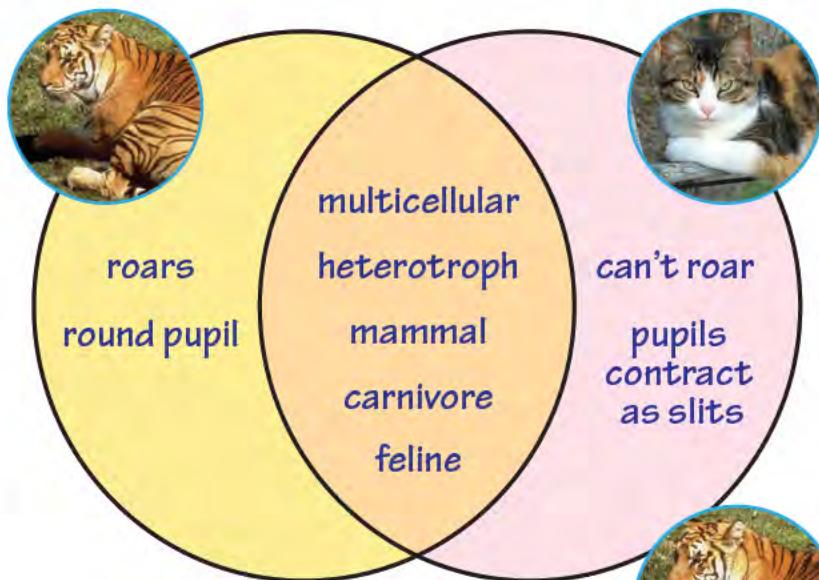
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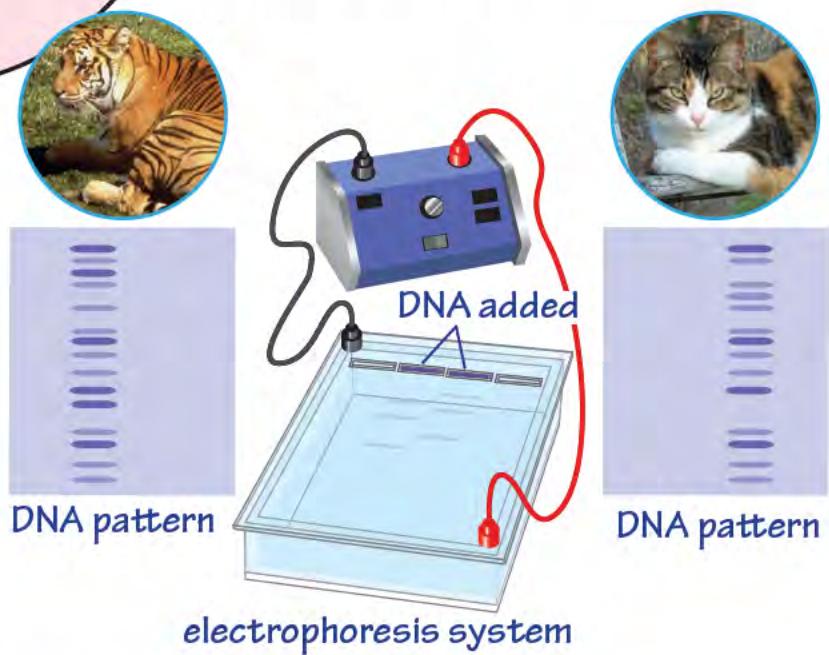
CLASSIFICATION

There are millions of types of organisms that live on Earth. A **classification system** helps scientists study, record and share information about organisms in a systematic and useful way.



The science of classification is called **taxonomy**. Organisms are classified according to **shared characteristics**, such as cell structure, physical appearance, how they obtain food, and method of reproduction.

DNA technology is also playing a role in classification. The study of **gene sequences** and mutations has enabled scientists to understand the evolutionary relationships between different organisms.



Kingdom **Animalia**

Phylum **Chordata**

Class **Mammalia**

Order **Primates**

Family **Hominidae**

Genus **Homo**

Species **sapiens**



There are seven levels of classification—**kingdom**, **phylum**, **class**, **order**, **family**, **genus** and **species**.

Each organism is identified by its **scientific name**, which includes the genus and species. For example, humans are called **Homo sapiens**.