

Y6 Linnaeus Scientific Names

KS2 Y6 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Why do scientists use names like *Erithacus rubecula* instead of 'robin'?

Step 1 · In Britain, 'robin' means a small bird with an orange-red breast

Erithacus rubecula

Step 2 · In North America, 'robin' means a much bigger thrush

Turdus migratorius: a different species

Step 3 · One scientific name, used worldwide

No confusion, whatever language you speak

Answer: Common names change from place to place and language to language; each scientific name means exactly one species everywhere.

Check: Woodlice have dozens of local British names, but only one scientific name for each species.

2. Now try one with the steps

What can you tell from the names *Panthera leo*, *Panthera tigris* and *Felis catus*?

Step 1 · Look at the first word (genus)

Step 2 · Compare with the pet cat

Step 3 · What does sharing a genus mean?

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. Which country did Carl Linnaeus come from?

2. In which century did Linnaeus live?

3. How many parts does a scientific name have?

4. In the name *Panthera leo*, which word is the genus?

5. Which part of a scientific name starts with a capital letter?

6. What is the scientific name for humans?

7. Which language are most scientific names based on?

8. Which is the biggest group: kingdom, genus or species?

9. Which is the smallest group: kingdom, family or species?

10. Why are scientific names more useful than common names?

11. *Quercus robur* and *Quercus petraea* are both oaks. What do they share?

12. Put in order from biggest to smallest: species, class, kingdom, genus.

13. What is a species?

14. Give a reason Linnaeus' grouping of plants by flower parts was later changed.

4. Before you hand it in

Writing the species with a capital: *Homo Sapiens*.

Write *Homo sapiens*, in italics or underlined.

Thinking two animals with the same common name are the same species.

Check the scientific name.

Getting the order of groups mixed up.

Remember: Kind People Can Often Find Green Sweets (kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species).

Thinking Linnaeus invented every group we use today.

His two-part naming system is what lasted.