

A Look into Biodiversity!

Natural Sciences: Grade 7

Names of Group Members: _____

Class: _____

Aim: To teach learners how plants and animals are classified

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, the number of species of plants, animals and microorganisms, the enormous diversity of genes in these species, the different ecosystems on the planet, such as deserts, rainforests and coral reefs are all part of a biologically diverse Earth.

Let us explore a little more: <http://www.globalissues.org/issue/169/biodiversity>

1. Use the poster to group the living organisms into groups with shared characteristics.

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Mammals/ Reptiles/ Amphibians/ Birds/ Plants/ Insects	_____	_____	_____	_____
Names of animals/plants				
Similar characteristics				

2. There are five main groups (called Kingdoms) of living organisms and these include Bacteria, Protista, Fungi, Plants and Animals. How many kingdoms do you think are present in this poster and give examples?

3. A vertebrate is an animal with a backbone and an invertebrate is an animal without a back bone!

Draw a table below and write the names of the animals under the vertebrates or invertebrates column.

4. **Vertebrates** are divided into five classes based on distinguishing characteristics. These five classes are: Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals. Using the poster, see if you can find a vertebrate in each class. Are there any classes missing?

5. **Invertebrates** are subdivided into Phyla Arthropods and Mollusca. Arthropods include insects (e.g. flies), arachnids (e.g. spiders) and crustaceans (e.g. crabs). Mollusca are soft bodied animals such as snails. Can you identify any invertebrates on the poster?

6. Plants are classified as plants with seeds (such as maize) or plants without seeds or spores (such as ferns). Plants with seeds are Angiosperms (flowering plants) and Gymnosperms (cone bearing plants such as the cycad). Can you identify any Angiosperms on the poster?

