

# Classifying Organisms

There are many types of life on Earth. All living things share certain characteristics, so they all belong to one group: organisms. Scientists believe there are over 10 million types of organisms on Earth. Classifying organisms helps scientists study them and understand them better.

Characteristics are used to classify an organism. Characteristics include what the parts of the organism do. What the organism looks like on the inside and outside is another characteristic.

The most common classification system divides organisms into five kingdoms: Plantae, Animalia, Fungi, Monera, and Protista. Within each kingdom, organisms are divided into smaller groups. Within those groups, they are divided into even smaller groups. As the groups are divided further, the organisms become more alike. There are more similarities in plants in the same family than in plants in the same phylum.

