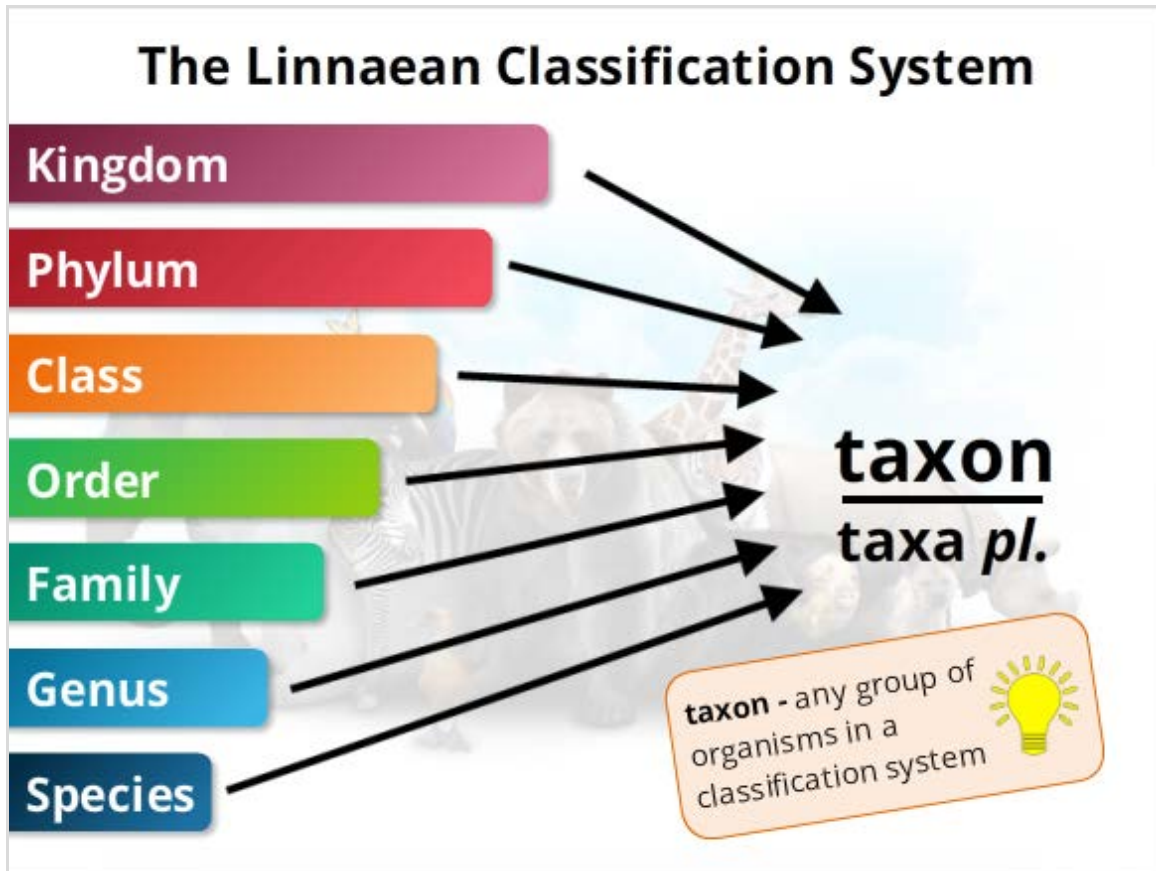


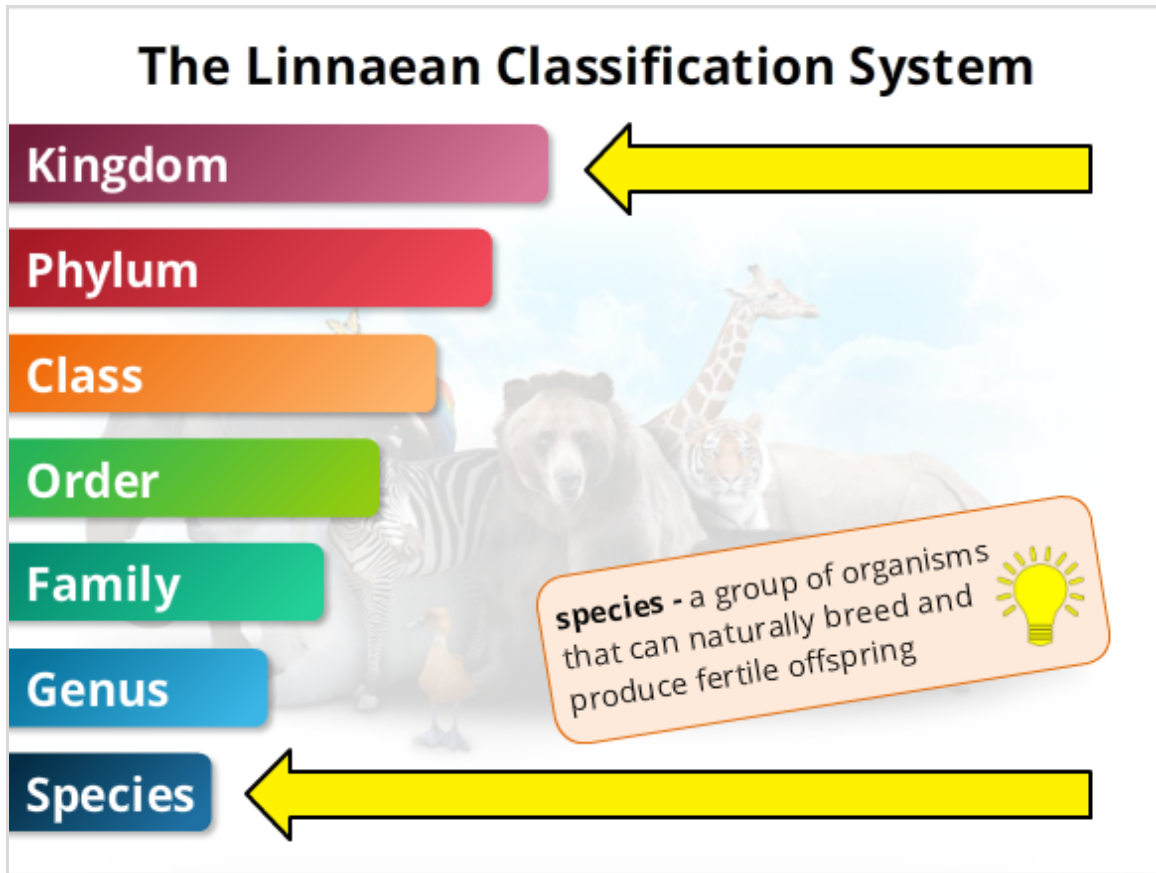
Module 9: Classification – The Basics
Topic 1 Content: The Linnaean Classification System

Introduction



In the 1750s, a Swedish botanist named Carolus Linnaeus developed a standardized system for naming and classifying organisms. Linnaean taxonomy consists of a hierarchy of seven levels based on physical similarities that reflect relationships over time. Each level is known as a **taxon**, which is any group of organisms in a classification system. The plural form of *taxon* is *taxa*.

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The seven taxa in the Linnaean system are kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. The plural form of *phylum* is *phyla*, and the plural form of *genus* is *genera*. Kingdom is the taxon that is the most broad, and species is the taxon that is the most basic and specific. A **species** is defined as a group of organisms that can naturally breed and produce fertile offspring.

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There are two commonly known mnemonic devices for remembering the order of taxa in the Linnaean system, as well as numerous variations of these mnemonics.

The first one is: Kings Play Chess On Fine Green Silk

You can also use the mnemonic: King Phillip Came Over For Good Spaghetti