

Lesson 2.2 Glossary

B

Breed – Animals having a common origin and distinguishing characteristics.

C

Class – A division of the plant or animal kingdom lower than a phylum and higher than an order.

Classification – The forming, sorting, apportioning, grouping, or dividing of objects into classes to form an ordered arrangement of items having a defined range of characteristics.

Cultivar – A cultivated variety. A group of cultivated plants that are distinguished by any significant character and that retain their distinguishing features when reproduced sexually or asexually.

D

Dichotomous key – A key for the identification of organisms based on a series of choices between alternative characters.

F

Family – A division of the classification of life forms beneath order and before genus.

G

Genus (pl. genera) – A group of species of plants or animals believed to have descended from a common direct ancestor that are similar enough to constitute a useful unit at this level of taxonomy.

H

Hierarchy – Any system of persons or things ranked one above another.

K

Kingdom – One of the five major areas in which all life forms are classified; i.e., Monera, Protista, Plantae, Fungi, and Animalia.

O

Order – A division of the classification of life forms beneath class and above family.

P

Phylum – The highest grouping in the taxonomy of the plant and animal kingdoms, based on assumed common ancestry.

S

Species – In the naming of plants and animals, Latin is used. Each kind of plant or animal can be identified by genus and species.

T

Taxonomy – The science of classification of organisms and other objects and their arrangement into systematic groups such as species, genus, family, and order.