

Objective

By the end of this lesson, Josie will understand the basic classification of living things, including the eight main categories: Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species. She will be able to identify examples of each category and explain their importance in understanding the diversity of life on Earth.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and colored pencils or crayons
- A large sheet of paper or poster board for a classification chart
- Images or drawings of different animals and plants (can be drawn by Josie)
- Access to a list of common animals and plants for reference

Before the lesson, it would be helpful for Josie to know what living things are and have some examples in mind, like animals and plants she loves.

Activities

- **Create a Classification Chart:** Josie will draw a big chart on the poster board. She will label each category (Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species) and fill in examples of living things she knows.
- **Animal and Plant Match-Up:** Josie will select pictures or drawings of different animals and plants and match them to their correct classification categories. This can be done by writing the names under the right sections of her chart.
- **Classification Storytime:** Josie will create a short story using her favorite animal or plant and explain how it fits into the classification system. For example, she can tell a story about a lion and explain its classification as she goes along.

Talking Points

- "Did you know that scientists group living things to understand them better? It's like putting them into teams!"
- "The first big group is called a Domain. Can you think of what living things might belong to a Domain?"
- "Next, we have Kingdoms. For example, animals and plants are in different kingdoms. What is your favorite animal?"
- "Phylum is like a family of similar animals. For example, all mammals are in the same phylum. Can you name a mammal?"
- "The Class is even more specific. For instance, all cats belong to the same class. What do you think makes a cat special?"
- "As we go down the list, we get to Order, Family, Genus, and Species. Each step gets more specific, like a treasure map leading to a hidden treasure!"