Objective

By the end of this lesson, Josiah will understand the basic classification of living things, including the eight levels: Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species. He will also be able to identify examples of each classification level.

Materials and Prep

- Paper
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Access to a computer or tablet for research (optional)
- Prepared chart with classification levels listed
- Examples of different living things (animals, plants, etc.) to discuss

Before the lesson, prepare a chart that lists the eight levels of classification. Familiarize yourself with some examples of living things that can fit into each category.

Activities

- **Classification Chart Creation:** Josiah will create his own classification chart on paper. He will draw or write examples of living things under each classification level. For instance, he can draw a dog under the "Species" level and label it.

- **Living Things Scavenger Hunt:** Go on a scavenger hunt around the house or yard to find different living things (plants, pets, insects). Josiah will classify each find according to the levels we learned about.

- **Story Time with Classification:** Read a short story about different animals. After the story, discuss how each animal fits into the classification system. Ask Josiah to tell you where he thinks each animal belongs.

Talking Points

- "Did you know that all living things can be grouped together? We call this classification!"
- "The highest level of classification is called Domain. Can you think of some big groups of living things?"
- "Next, we have Kingdom. This is where we put animals and plants. What animals can you name?"
- "Phylum is a little more specific. For example, dogs belong to a different phylum than trees!"
- "Class helps us sort animals even more. For instance, mammals are a class. Can you name some mammals?"
- "Family is like a big family reunion! It groups animals that are very similar. What family do you think a lion belongs to?"
- "Genus is a smaller group, and Species is the smallest. It's like your name! What is your species? It's human!"
- "Classification helps scientists understand living things better. It's like a big puzzle that we can solve together!"