Every known species of every living thing on earth has its own scientific classification, or grouping. Classification helps us see how one life on earth is related to another.

Classify each of the living things you see here.

Animal __________________, ______________________
Plant __________________, ______________________
Fungus __________________, ______________________
Now, let’s compare and contrast.

**Compare!** Write three things elephants have in common with trees.

1. __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________

**Contrast!** Write three differences between elephants and trees.

1. __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________

**Compare!** Write three similarities between elephants and ants.

1. __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________
Contrast! Write three differences between **elephants** and **ants**.

1. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

Write a paragraph to compare and contrast **animals** and **plants**.

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**FUN FACT:** Carl Linnaeus gave names to more than 12,000 species of plants and animals! He even named the human species, **Homo sapiens**.

*Homo sapiens* means “wise man.” Like me. Woot woot!
More than 1 million species (out of more than 8 million!) have been classified today. It can be tricky keeping up with all those living things. Classification helps us to keep it straight. Carl Linnaeus is the father of taxonomy, the science of classifying things. He developed a system to classify animals based on how they are related to each other. Today, the system begins with a species’ broadest relatives, works its way down to its closest relatives, and ends with its species-specific name. No two species can have the same name. Check out the classification of humans.

**FREEZE FRAME!**

- **Domain**: Eukarya
- **Kingdom**: Animalia
- **Phylum**: Chordata
- **Class**: Mammalia
- **Order**: Primates
- **Family**: Hominidae
- **Genus**: Homo
- **Species**: Homo sapiens

- All living things, except eubacteria and archaebacteria
- No plants or mushrooms here!
- Creatures with primitive backbones
- These warm-blooded animals’ mamas feed their babies milk.
- Humans, along with our monkey, ape, and lemur cousins
- Just us and good ole great apes
- We are the only living members of this genus; the rest of the members of Homo are extinct.
- Humans only!