*This is the **Foundation Combined** version — Higher Tier and Separate-only content removed.*

Classification groups organisms based on their shared characteristics and evolutionary relationships.

- Linnaean classification system (Carl Linnaeus, 18th century): hierarchical groups from largest to smallest.
- Hierarchy: Kingdom → Phylum → Class → Order → Family → Genus → Species.
- Mnemonic: "King Philip Came Over For Good Spaghetti".
- Binomial nomenclature: each species has a two-part Latin name: Genus species (e.g. Homo sapiens). Always written in italics.
- A species: organisms that can interbreed to produce fertile offspring.
- Modern classification uses DNA evidence rather than just physical similarities — based on evolutionary relationships (phylogenetics).

Key Terms

Species	A group of organisms that can interbreed to produce fertile offspring
Binomial nomenclature	Two-part naming system: Genus species (e.g. Homo sapiens)
Taxonomy	The science of classifying organisms into groups based on shared characteristics

■ **Exam Tip:** Know the order of classification: Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species. The species is the most specific level. Two organisms of the same species can interbreed to produce FERTILE offspring.