

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM for a recently discovered population of fasteners.

Question: How does one assign organisms to groups at different hierarchal levels (taxa) based on observations of their characteristics.

Materials: One really large piece of paper and some pencils.

Time limit: One class period.

Procedures:

1. Start by grouping your fasteners into related groups or taxa (plural of taxon).
2. Determine which groups represent a **species**. You may have **individuals** within a species which are not identical...Duh! DEFINE EACH SPECIES.
3. Group related species into **genera** (plural of genus).
4. Group related genera into **families**.
5. Group related families into **orders**.
6. Group related orders into **classes**.
7. Group related classes into **phyla** (plural of phylum).
8. Group related phyla into a **kingdom**...Let's not have more than one kingdom.

You may have only a single species in a genus (as in the case with *Homo sapiens*), a single genus in a family, and so on...depending on your strategy.

Identify results with sketches on the really large piece of paper.

Make sure **all** of your organisms are back in the bag when finished.

Your group will be evaluated the following day, based on what you sketch on the paper, and the functionality of your system.

Discuss and debate freely, but do not squabble, bicker, or get excessively emotional about this. Time is of the essence.