This lesson is part of the Classification unit, which explains how to organize the millions of organisms on Earth. Below is a summary of what is included in the entire unit.

UNIT CONTENTS

A. Background Information
   - How Do We Classify Organisms?
   - Linnaean Naming System
   - Coral Classification
   - Modern Classification
   - Understanding Cladograms
   - How to Build a Cladogram

B. Lessons

  Watch It! Naming Nature
  - A worksheet to accompany the Naming Nature video

  Classify This!
  - A worksheet to classify an organism and identify its characteristics

  Rules, Rules, Rules
  - A worksheet about scientific names

  ’Taxing’ Corals
  - An activity to classify corals based on their characteristics

  In Light of New Evidence
  - A writing assignment on an organism that has been reclassified

  The Key to ID
  - An activity using a dichotomous key for sea stars

  And Then There Was One
  - An activity to create a dichotomous key for corals

  Cladograms 1
  - A lesson on creating and interpreting a cladogram

  Cladograms 2
  - A lesson on creating and interpreting a cladogram (with traits already included)

  Read It! Troubling Taxonomy
  - A worksheet to accompany the Troubling Taxonomy field blog

  Read It! Blue, You Say?
  - A worksheet to accompany the Blue, You Say? field blog

STANDARDS

- CCSS: RST.9-10.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10; RST.11-12.1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, W.9-10.2, 4, 7, 8, 9; W.11-12.2, 4, 7, 8, 9; SL.9-10.4, 6; SL.11-12.4, 6
- NGSS: HS-LS4-1
- OLP: 4.B.1, 4.B.2, 5.C.22
**INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Choose an organism (plant or animal) and write its common name on the line below.
2. Write the scientific name on the line below, following the Linnaean rules of binomial nomenclature.
3. Classify it by its eight taxonomic divisions.
4. For each category, write four characteristics that are used to classify the organism.

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