

Evolution

Name:

Classifying Organisms

Period:

Use Chapter 11, Section 1 of your textbook to answer the questions below.

Section 1: Sorting It All Out (p.332)

1. Placing things into groups based on similar characteristics is called _____.

Why Classify?

2. For a long time, humans have classified living things based upon _____.

- _____ 3. What do scientists hope to learn by classifying organisms?
- a. which living thing is strongest
 - b. the characteristics of different species
 - c. which species has the most members
 - d. how species get along

How Do Scientists Classify Organisms?

4. What is the name of the person who founded modern taxonomy? _____

- _____ 5. What do taxonomists (people who study taxonomy) do?
- a. describe organisms
 - b. classify organisms
 - c. name organisms
 - d. all of these things

Classification Today

6. Today, scientists use _____ levels of classification.

7. Many kinds of organisms share a characteristic of their most recent _____.

8. Scientists can use _____ to figure out how closely related organisms are.

- _____ 9. What do closely related living things share?
- a. size only
 - b. shape only
 - c. many characteristics
 - d. color and size only

- _____ 10. What characteristics do platypuses, brown bears, lions, and house cats all share?
- a. giving birth to live young
 - b. retractable claws
 - c. ability to purr
 - d. hair and mammary glands

Branching Diagrams

11. _____ show when organisms evolved and which characteristics they share.

- _____ 12. Look closely at Figure 2. What do house cats have that lions don't have?
- a. ability to purr
 - b. retractable claws
 - c. hair and mammary glands
 - d. giving birth to live young

- _____ 13. Which of the following pairs of animals are the most closely related?
- a. lions and house cats
 - b. lions and platypuses
 - c. house cats and platypuses
 - d. house cats and brown bears

- _____ 14. What characteristic is shared by bears, lions, and cats?
- a. hooves
 - b. giving birth to live young
 - c. cold blooded
 - d. mane and tail

- _____ 15. Which animal evolved the most recently?
- a. platypus
 - b. brown bear
 - c. lion
 - d. house cat

