

# Classifying Living Things

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## Standards of Learning

Science 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, 4.5, 5.5

English 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1

## Objective

Students will:

- Sort living things based on similar characteristics
- Sort living things into kingdoms

## Materials

- Pictures of living things found on or near a farm (a set of pictures for each group of 2-4 students)

## Background Knowledge

The Five Kingdoms:

1. **Monerans** – microscopic living things made of a single cell with no nucleus
2. **Protists** – microscopic living things made of a single cell with a nucleus
3. **Fungi** – multicellular organisms whose cells have a nucleus; get energy from living things in a state of decomposition
4. **Plants** – multicellular organisms whose cells have a nucleus; trap energy from the sun to make own food through photosynthesis
5. **Animals** – multicellular organisms whose cells have a nucleus; get energy by eating other living things

## Procedure

1. Discuss the term “classification.”
2. Divide students into groups of 2 - 4.
3. Give each group a set of “living things on a farm” pictures and have them classify them into three different groups. (Ask students to be creative in their criteria for classifying the living things. Classifications can be made based on more than one trait.)
4. Once students have had time to classify the living things, allow them to share their classifications with the class and explain how they classified the living things into those groups.
5. Conclude by sharing with children how scientists classify all living things into five groups.
6. Have the students classify the living things found a farm into the five kingdoms.

## Extension

Divide students into small groups and give them three minutes to generate a list of as many living things they can. Classify the living things into the Five Kingdoms.

Ask students to research and discuss the roles that organisms in the different kingdoms play in the environment and how these roles are essential to the agricultural world.

