Classification Challenge: Designing a New Species

Learning objective: To apply the principles of the Linnaean classification system by designing an original organism and identifying its key characteristics.

Follow the drawing prompt to create your own unique organism. Once your drawing is complete, use the word bank to label the specific features that help your creature survive in its habitat. Ensure you include evidence of the classification criteria in your labels.

Draw: Draw a brand-new, original animal or plant in the center of your page. The style should be a clear, scientific diagram (like a field sketch). Include: 1) The organism in its natural habitat (e.g., deep ocean, rainforest, or desert). 2) Close-up 'zoom-in' bubbles showing important details like teeth, leaves, or skin texture. 3) Use arrows to point to specific adaptations, such as gills for breathing, camouflage patterns, or specialised limbs.

Label words: Vertebrate · Invertebrate · Micro-organism · Habitat · Adaptation · Characteristic · Classification · Genus

Steps:

1. Identify whether your original organism is a vertebrate or an invertebrate. Explain one reason why it belongs in that group.
2. Describe the habitat where your organism lives. How does its body structure help it survive there?

3. If your organism was to be classified, which specific physical characteristic would you use to distinguish it from a similar-looking animal?

4. Label your drawing with at least four words from the word bank to demonstrate how your creature fits into the natural world.

5. If you discovered a new micro-organism living on your creature, how would you decide which group to place it in?