

What is Binomial Nomenclature?

Worksheet

Binomial nomenclature names each species with two Latin words: the genus (capitalized) followed by the species epithet (lowercase), both italicized - for example, *Homo sapiens*.

Questions

1. What are the two parts of a binomial name?

- A) Genus and species
- B) Kingdom and phylum
- C) Family and order
- D) Class and genus

2. Which is correctly formatted?

- A) homo Sapiens
- B) Homo sapiens
- C) HOMO SAPIENS
- D) Homo Sapiens

3. Who developed the binomial nomenclature system?

- A) Charles Darwin
- B) Carl Linnaeus
- C) Gregor Mendel
- D) Louis Pasteur

4. Why is binomial nomenclature useful to scientists worldwide?

- A) It replaces the need for classification
- B) It gives every species one unique, universal name
- C) It only works for animals
- D) It is based on each country's local language

5. Give the binomial name for the lion and explain each part.

6. Why are humans classified as *Homo sapiens* and not just 'sapiens'?

7. A newly discovered beetle is placed in genus *Agra* with epithet *vation*. Write its correctly formatted name.

8. Define: Who invented binomial nomenclature?

9. Define: What are the two parts of a scientific name?

10. Define: Why use Latin scientific names instead of common names?

Answer Key

1. A) Genus and species - A binomial name combines the genus and the species epithet.
2. B) Homo sapiens - Genus is capitalized, species epithet is lowercase, both italicized: *Homo sapiens*.
3. B) Carl Linnaeus - Linnaeus introduced consistent two-part Latin names in the 1700s.
4. B) It gives every species one unique, universal name - A single Latin name avoids the confusion of many different common names.
5. Genus: *Panthera* (shared with tigers, jaguars, leopards) Species epithet: *leo* (unique to lions) Full italicized name: *Panthera leo*
6. The genus *Homo* groups humans with extinct related species like *Homo erectus* The epithet *sapiens* distinguishes modern humans specifically Together *Homo sapiens* is unique and unambiguous
7. Capitalize the genus: *Agra* Keep the epithet lowercase: *vation* Italicize the whole name: *Agra vation*
8. Carl Linnaeus, in the 18th century, standardized the two-part Latin naming system.
9. Genus (capitalized) + species epithet (lowercase), both italicized.
10. Common names vary by language and region; a binomial name is universal and unambiguous.

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