CLASSIFYING THINGS
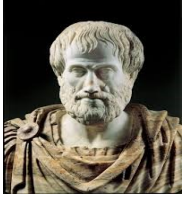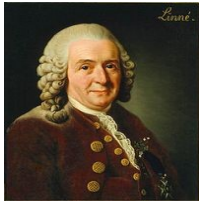
In about 350 B.C. Aristotle (a Greek philosopher) classified all things into 4 main groups:

1) Human beings

2) Animals

3) Plants
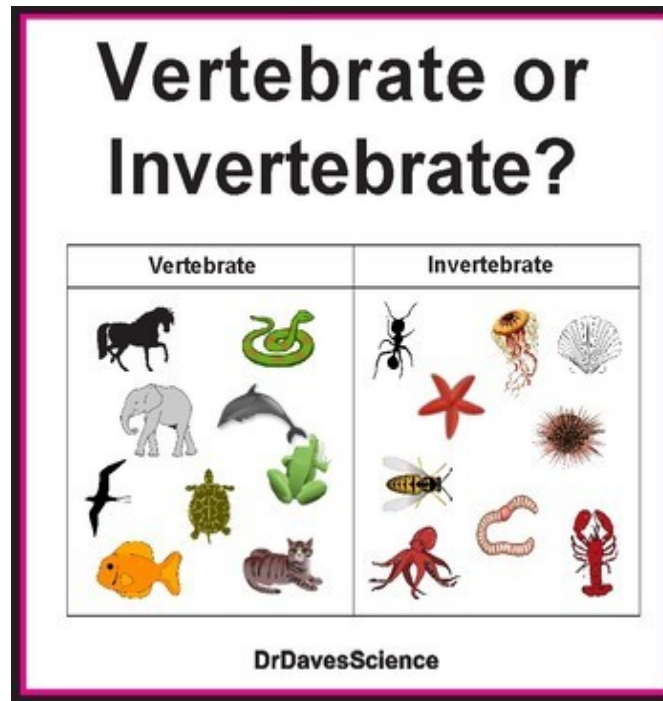
4) Non-Living e.g. rocks

In 1735 Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish scientist invented a simpler system to name living things. Until this point living things had been given very long and complicated names. In his system, every kind of animal and plant is given a name consisting of two Latin words, for its genus and species e.g. humans are called homo sapiens and a lion is felis leo. This system became used by biologists all over the world and he became very during his lifetime.

WAYS TO CLASSIFY ANIMALS

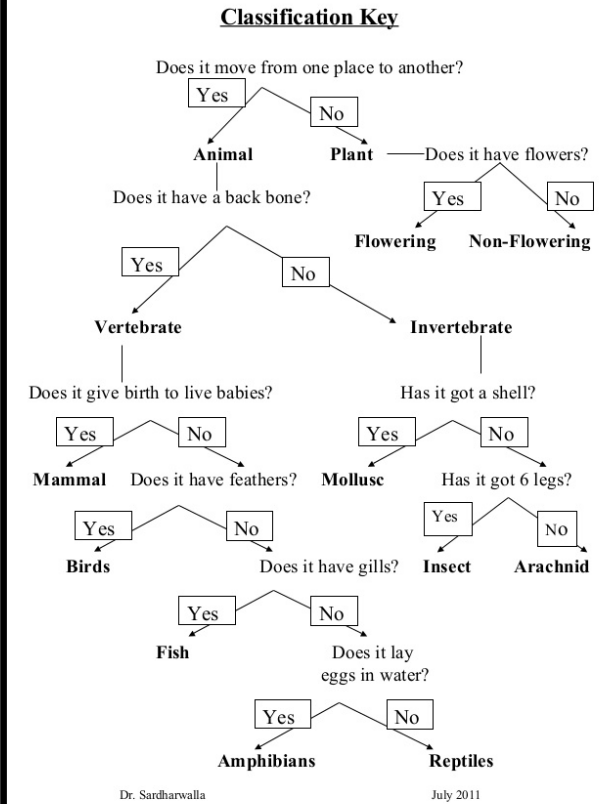Animals can be classified simply into 2 groups depending on whether they have a backbone (vertebrates) or not (invertebrates).

WAYS TO CLASSIFY LIVING THINGS

A classification key like this one can be used. for all living

Classification Key

MICROORGANISMS

If you can only see a living thing with a microscope, it means it is a microorganism. There are 3 types, viruses, fungi and bacteria and they are found everywhere. Some of them, like yeast are helpful whilst some of them are harmful and disease causing, like bacteria. It is important to know how to avoid spreading the bad ones. (Wash your hands!).