

# Linnaeus – father of modern taxonomy

Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus gave the modern classification of nature consistency by ordering the animal, plant and mineral kingdoms in a hierarchy and defining each species by a double name in Latin. The first referred to the genus and the second a descriptive name for each species



*How Linnaeus classified humans*

■ **KINGDOM: *Animalia***

Multicellular, heterotrophic – rely directly or indirectly on other organisms for nourishment

■ **PHYLUM: *Chordata***. Animals with *notochord* – hollow dorsal nerve cord, and backbone

■ **CLASS: *Mammalia***. Warm-blooded vertebrates with hair and mammary glands

■ **ORDER: *Primates***. Forward-facing vision, grasping hands with five fingers, two types of teeth – incisors and molars

■ **FAMILY: *Hominidae***. Upright posture, large brain, stereoscopic vision, flat face, hands and feet with different specializations

■ **GENUS: *Homo***. Latin for “man”. Genus describes a group of very closely related species, thought to have diverged from one another relatively recently

■ **SPECIES: *Homo sapiens***. Latin for “wise” or “knowing man”, noted for desire to understand and influence the world

Carl von  
Linné  
1707-1778