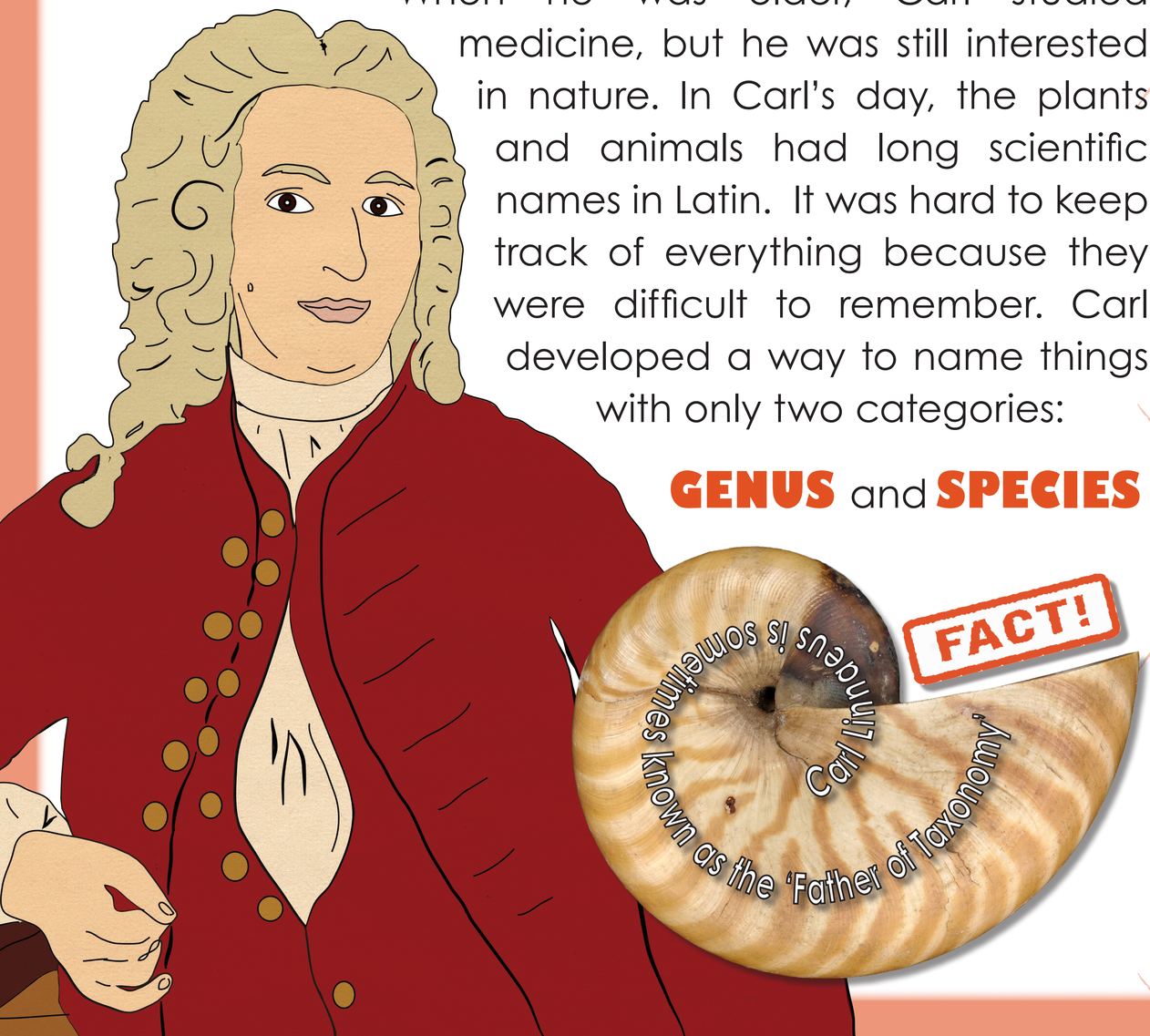
Carl Linnaeus

The Man Who Named Nature

Carl Linnaeus (*Lin-ay-us*) was born in 1707, over 300 years ago, in Sweden. As a boy, he was very interested in the natural world, especially **BOTANY**, the study of plants. His father Nils taught him that every plant had a name. By the time he was five, Carl had his own small garden and could name all of the plants he had grown.



When he was older, Carl studied medicine, but he was still interested in nature. In Carl's day, the plants and animals had long scientific names in Latin. It was hard to keep track of everything because they were difficult to remember. Carl developed a way to name things with only two categories:

GENUS and **SPECIES**

What is CLASSIFICATION?

Have you ever sorted your toys, books or clothes into different groups? Perhaps you have grouped things together by colour, shape or size – this is like classification (taxonomy).



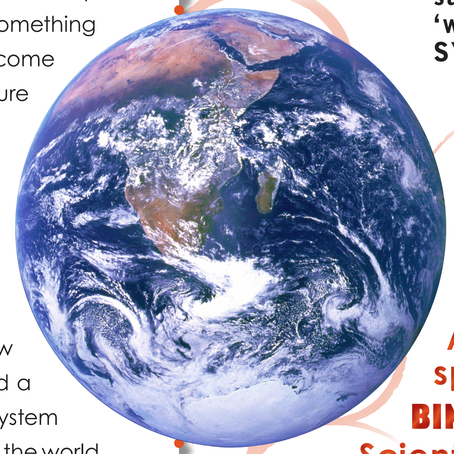
CLASSIFICATION is the study of putting all living things into groups.

Why are NAMES important?

If we didn't know the names of all the animals, plants and fungi, we wouldn't know when something was new, or if something had become extinct – we wouldn't be able to measure life on the planet.

What did LINNAEUS do?

Carl Linnaeus created a system called BINOMIAL naming (bye-no-me-al). Binomial means 'two words' – every plant and animal that he knew about was given a GENUS name and a SPECIES name, in Latin. Linnaeus' system has made it easier for scientists all over the world to communicate about life on Earth.



CLASSIFICATION by NUMBERS!

1707 The year Carl Linnaeus was born

40,000 Plant and animal specimens in Linnaeus' collections

1,600 Books in his library

71 The age of Linnaeus when he died

1758 The year Linnaeus named us *Homo sapiens* (ho-mo sah-pe-ens), which means 'wise man', in his book SYSTEMA NATURAE

8.7* million
Estimated species on planet Earth

About 1.5* million species have a BINOMIAL NAME. Scientists are working on the rest!

IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS!

Carl Linnaeus would look at a species and see what was different about it. It might be a certain colour, size, texture or be from a certain place. He would use this information in the BINOMIAL name.

How about this ladybird? In America, this is called a ladybug; in other countries it's a lady beetle. So how do we know it's the same thing? Its BINOMIAL name tells us: ***Coccinella septempunctata***

GENUS: Coccinella (co-chi-nella) means **BRIGHT RED**

SPECIES: septempunctata (sept-em-punk-tata) means **SEVEN POINTS**

CAN YOU SEE WHY IT WAS NAMED THIS WAY?



Coccinella septempunctata
BRIGHT RED SEVEN POINTS

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*Species information taken from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP – unep.org) and Science (no. 25 – sciencemag.org)

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