Classifying Organisms

Understanding Main Ideas

Complete the table below. Then answer the following questions in the space provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientist</th>
<th>Contributions to Modern Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aristotle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolus Linnaeus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Darwin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Describe the modern system of classification.

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Building Vocabulary

Match each term with its definition by writing the letter of the correct definition in the right column on the line beside the term in the left column.

2. classification  a. naming system developed by Carolus Linnaeus
3. taxonomic key   b. process of grouping things based on their similarities
4. binomial nomenclature c. first part of an organism’s scientific name
d. tool for identifying organisms that is based on a series of paired statements describing physical characteristics
5. evolution        e. theory that species can gradually change over time
6. genus            f. a group of organisms that can mate and produce fertile offspring
g. the scientific study of how things are classified
7. species          h. process of grouping things based on their similarities
8. taxonomy