

Classifying Living Organisms

Chapter 2: Diversity in the Living World · Topic 3

Key Concept

Within the animal kingdom, organisms are grouped by features such as whether they have a backbone (vertebrates) or not (invertebrates), and further into categories like mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Plants are classified by features such as whether they produce flowers or seeds, and their overall size and structure (trees, shrubs, herbs). Classification systems have evolved over centuries — early classification was based only on visible features, while modern classification also uses genetic information.

Quick Revision Notes

- Classification groups organisms based on shared characteristics.
- Animals are broadly grouped as vertebrates (with backbone) or invertebrates (without backbone).
- Plants are classified by features like flowering/seed-bearing and overall size and structure.
- Modern classification also uses genetic information, not just visible features.

Practice Questions

- 1 Group these into plants and animals: mango tree, dog, rose, cat.
- 2 Name two examples each of vertebrates and invertebrates.
- 3 Why is classification useful for scientists studying living organisms?