

Taxonomy

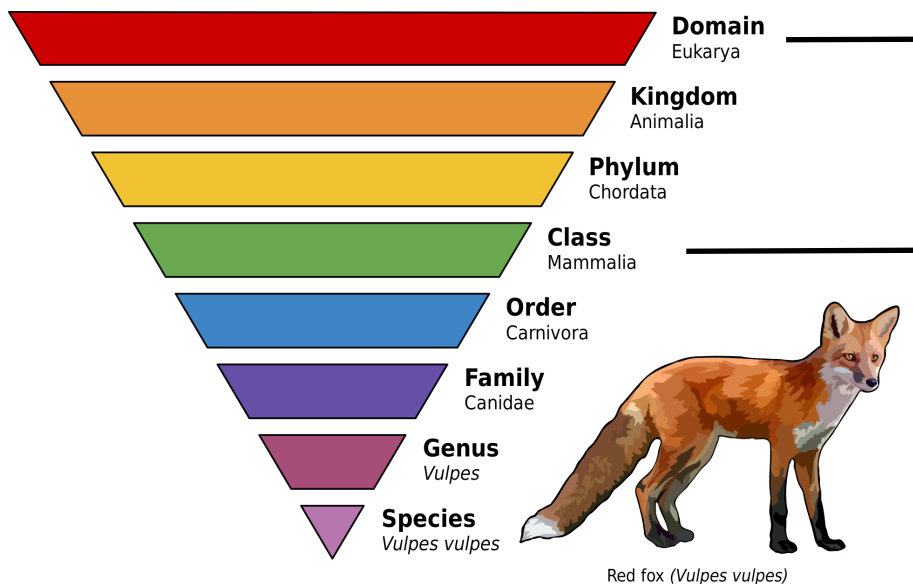
Taxonomy is the science of identification, naming and classification of living organisms. Taxonomy uses a hierarchal structure that classifies organisms from very broad categories to very specific categories. In terms of scientific classification, the broadest categories are Domains while the most specific ones are Species and Subspecies.

Scientific classification system:

- Domain
 - Kingdom
 - Phylum
 - Class
 - Order
 - Family
 - Genus
 - Species
 - Subspecies (if present)
- * Each category is narrowed down based on the various characteristics of the organism. *

One way to remember the classification system is to use the mnemonic: King Phillip Calls Out For Good Soup.

Here is an example of a complete taxonomic tree using a red fox as an example.



All of your study species have the same Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, and Class. *Which Class is the red fox in?* Mammalia contains all mammals. Our study species' taxonomic trees begin to split at the Order level of classification.

On the next page you will see all the species from your Game Commission Mammal Tracks resource broken down into their various orders and families.

Order

Family

Common Name

