

The Five Kingdoms

All living things on earth may be classified into five taxonomic groups called kingdoms.

Monera (Monerans)



- Microscopic, one-celled organisms.
 - No nucleus.
 - Most absorb their food.
 - Reproduce by dividing.
- Examples: bacteria, blue-green algae

Protista (Protists)



- Mostly one-celled organisms.
 - Have a nucleus.
 - Some can produce their own food.
 - Reproduce by dividing.
- Examples: amoeba, paramecium, euglena

Fungi (Fungus Organisms)



- Can be one-celled (yeast) or many-celled (mushrooms).
 - Do not make their own food; absorb their food. (They are decomposers.)
 - Can spread by forming reproductive spores that are then carried by animals, wind, rain, or insects. Some spread by growing and extending their hyphae.
- Examples: mushrooms, mold, yeast

Plantae (Plants)



- Many-celled organisms.
 - Produce their own food in a process called photosynthesis.
 - Different groups of plants have different ways of reproducing.
- Examples: flowering plants, ferns, mosses, conifers

Animalia (Animals)



- Many-celled organisms.
- Cannot make their own food. They eat plants and other animals.
- There are many different groups of animals, each living in different ways, from sea sponges to fish to cats to elephants. Over 800,000 species have been identified.