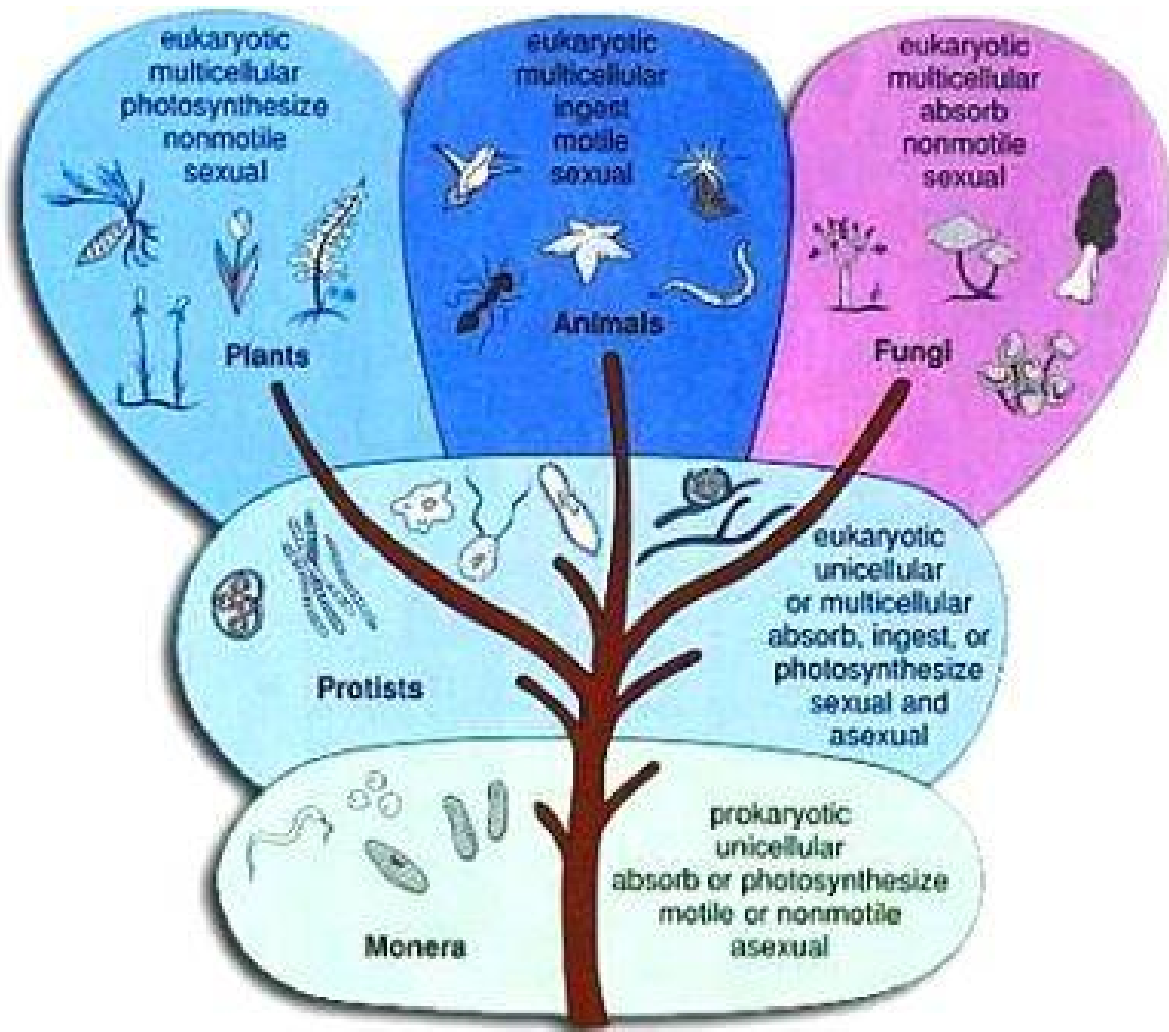


# Animal Kingdom



**(i) Characters of Non Chordata (Invertebrates):** The animals which lack a notochord are called invertebrates. e.g. Amoeba, sponges, Hydra, worms, insects, etc., Invertebrates are characterised by the following salient features –

- (1) The vertebral column is absent.
- (2) The nerve cord is solid in nature.
- (3) The nerve cord is present on the ventral side and never on the dorsal side.
- (4) When alimentary canal is present, it lies dorsal to the nerve cord.
- (5) Invertebrates may be acoelomate or pseudocoelomate or true coelomate.
- (6) They have either asymmetry or radial symmetry or bilateral symmetry.
- (7) The circulatory system is open type or closed type.

(8) They exhibit all possible type of reproduction.

- [Phylum Protozoa and Porifera](#)
- [Phylum Cnidaria and Ctenophora](#)
- [Phylum Platyhelminthes and Nematoda](#)
- [Phylum Mollusca and Echinodermata](#)

**(ii) Characters of Chordata (Vertebrates):**

The animals which possess a notochord are called vertebrates.

- (1) Aquatic, aerial or terrestrial.
- (2) Body small to large, bilaterally symmetrical and metamerically segmented.
- (3) A post anal tail usually projects beyond the anus at some stage and may or may not persist in the adult.
- (4) Exoskeleton often present; well developed in most vertebrates.
- (5) Body wall triploblastic with 3 germinal layers : ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm.
- (6) Coelomate animals having a true coelom, enterocoelic or schizocoelic in origin.
- (7) A skeletal rod, the notochord, present at some stage in life cycle.
- (8) A cartilaginous or bony, living and jointed...

