All living things are *identified* and *categorized* on the basis of *characteristics*

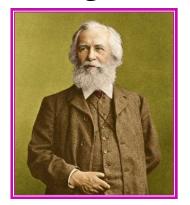
All living things are *identified* and *categorised* on the basis of their *body design* in *form* and *function*.

Some characteristics are likely to make more wide-ranging changes in body design than others.

There is a role of time in this as well.

So, once a certain body design comes into existence, it will shape the effects of all other subsequent design changes, simply because it already exists.

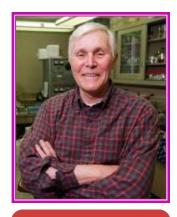
Biologists, such as



Ernst Haeckel (1894),



Robert Whittaker (1959)

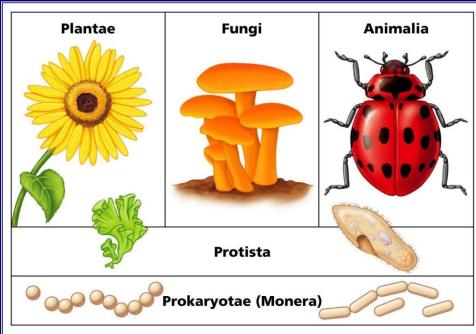


Carl Woese (1977)

have tried to classify all living organisms into broad categories, called kingdoms.

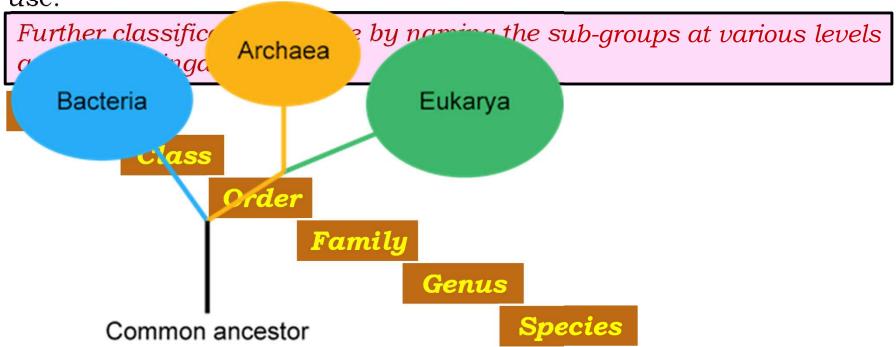
The classification Whittaker proposed has five kingdoms





These groups are formed on the basis of their cell structure, mode and source of nutrition and body organisation.

The modification Woese introduced by dividing the *Monera* into *Archaebacteria* (or *Archaea*) and *Eubacteria* (or *Bacteria*) is also in use.



Thus, by separating organisms on the basis of a hierarchy of characteristics into smaller and smaller groups, we arrive at the basic unit of classification, which is a species.

