



Directed Reading for
Content Mastery

Key Terms Exploring and Classifying Life

Directions: Write the terms in the blanks at the left of their definitions. Then circle these terms in the puzzle.

- _____ 1. first and largest category in the classification system most commonly used today
- _____ 2. keeps the proper conditions inside a living thing.
- _____ 3. the smallest unit of an organism that carries on the functions of life
- _____ 4. in science, a statement about how things work in nature
- _____ 5. the standard used to compare the outcome of a test
- _____ 6. the evolutionary history of an organism
- _____ 7. what any living thing is called
- _____ 8. explanation based on scientific knowledge resulting from numerous observations and experiments
- _____ 9. the theory that living things come only from other living things
- _____ 10. the first term in a scientific name
- _____ 11. something in an experiment that can change

L G E V B I S J M P L T V J U H
 H O M E O S T A S I S H A K S E
 C E L L T G L E K N U E R L H C
 O A C O R G A N I S M O I D G G
 N W Q I F A W M N I L R A A Y E
 T A O P H Y L O G E N Y B O W N
 R N M Y G F T Z D S X I L F N U
 O B H C D T B I O G E N E S I S
 L M I R S P E C M E R O N D V G



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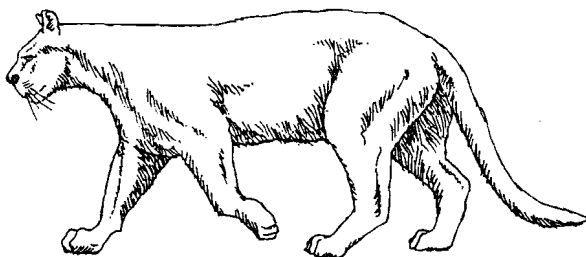
**Section 3 ■ Where does life come from?
Section 4 ■ How are living things classified?**

Ch. 1 p6-26

Directions: Circle the term in parentheses that makes each sentence correct.

1. The idea that living things could come from nonliving things was known as the theory of (spontaneous generation/biogenesis)
2. In the mid-1800's, (Alexander Oparin/Louis Pasteur) provided enough evidence to disprove that living things could come from nonliving things.
3. Organisms that belong to the same (genus/species), the smallest category of classification, can mate and reproduce.
4. (Common/Scientific) names allow information to be organized and help avoid mistakes.

Directions: Study the drawing of the cat. Then use the dichotomous key to label the cat by its common and scientific names. Also give the genus to which it belongs.



5. Common name:

Scientific name:

Genus:

Key to Native Cats of North America

1. Tail length
 - a. short, go to 2
 - b. long go to 3
2. Cheek ruff
 - a. no cheek ruff; long ear tufts tipped with black; coat distinctly mottled: lynx, *Lynx canadensis*
 - b. broad cheek ruffs; ear tufts short; coat with indistinct spots: bobcat, *Lynx rufus*
3. Coat
 - a. plain colored, go to 4
 - b. patterned, go to 5
4. Coat color
 - a. yellowish to tan above with white to buff below: mountain lion, *Felis concolor*
 - b. all brown or black: jaguarundi, *Felis yagouarundi*
5. Coat pattern
 - a. lines of black bordered brown spots: ocelot, *Felis pardalis*
 - b. irregular tan and black, go to 6
6. Animal size
 - a. large cat; rows of black rosettes or rings unevenly distributed: jaguar, *Panthera onca*
 - b. small cat; four dark-brown stripes on the back and one on the neck; some irregularly shaped spots: margay, *Felis wiedii*