

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FATHER OF TAXONOMY?

Time Recommended: open-ended

- This exercise aims to improve understanding and development of the following key topics and skills:
 - ⊙ Research skills
 - ⊙ Presentation skills
 - ⊙ Oral discussion
 - ⊙ Principles and importance of classification and taxonomy
 - ⊙ Understanding the importance of Linnaeus' contribution to science
- This exercise would be suitable for a team of three students

Procedure

Collect 50 pieces of information about the life, career and contributions to science of **Carl Linnaeus**.

Construct a 'portrait' of Linnaeus which you can present to an audience of fellow students. You may use any combination of media you consider appropriate (e.g. video, Powerpoint, collage, oral presentation). The presentation should last about 10 minutes.



Questions to consider:

- Who was Carl Linnaeus?
- Where did he come from?
- What were the major events in his life?
- What were his contributions to science?
- Why were they important?
- How do they relate to science today?

Some resources are given overleaf to help you get started, you should be able to find more of your own. Make sure you keep a record of all your sources and try to make your presentation original and interesting!

A Brief Biography of Carl Linnaeus

Carl Linnaeus was born in 1707 at Rashult in Sweden. He undertook his medical degree in 1735 at the University of Harderwijk in Gelre, the Netherlands (which no longer exists), thence going to the University of Leiden for further studies. In his publications, Linnaeus provided a concise, usable survey of all the world's plants and animals as then known, about 7,700 species of plants and 4,400 species of animals. These works helped to establish and standardize the consistent binomial nomenclature for species which he introduced on a world scale for plants in 1753, and for animals in 1758, and which is used today. He died in 1778.

Useful Websites

www.linnean.org

The Linnean Society of London

www.linnean-online.org

Linnaeus' collections online

www.linnaeus.se/eng/index.html

The Swedish Linnaeus Society

www.linnaeus.uu.se/online/index-en.html

An extensive portal from the University of Uppsala, Sweden, to information on Linnaeus

www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/science-of-natural-history/biographies/linnaeus/index.html

Information on Linnaeus from the Natural History Museum, London

linnaeus.nrm.se/botany/fbo/welcome.html.en

The Linnaean Herbarium at the Swedish Museum of Natural History

www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/history/linnaeus.html

A biography of Linnaeus from the University of California, Museum of Palaeontology

www.hammarby.uu.se/LHeng.html

Information about Linnaeus' home, Hammarby, from the University of Uppsala, Sweden



Specimens from Linnaeus' collections

Educational resources from the Linnean Society of London

For more information contact:

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A Forum for Natural History

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