A WORLD OF LIVING THINGS

What's the name of this animal?

Italian name: *leopardo*

English name: *leopard*

South African name: *mdaba*

Indian name: *asnea*

Chinese name: *Jin-qian-bao*

Also this animal has only one scientific name known all over the world!!

Panthera pardus

What's the name of this plant?

"margherita" in Italian,
"daisy" in English,
"pâquerette" in French,
"gänseblümchen" in German ect.

This plant has an only scientific name known all over the world!!

Bellis perennis

The species of living things are indicated by two **latin** words, rich of meaning:

Bellis perennis originates by bellus=beautiful and perennis=eternal

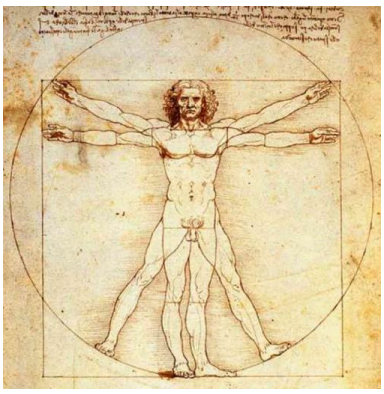
Bellis perennis

The first name begins with a capital letter.

The second name begins with a small letter.

And what's the name of our species? Uomo, human, ανθρώπινο ον, umuntu…

Homo sapiens



NAME-GAME

Find the five correct scientific names and write them in the blank spaces below.

Allium ursinum	Martin-pêcheur
wild garlic	Paramecium caudatum
Kingfisher	Fly Agaric
paramecio	Punakärpässieni
ラムソムズ	Alcedo atthis
Martin pescatore	hongo diabólico
Lactobacillus acidophilus	カワセミ
aglio orsino	Amanita muscaria

1 - ……

2 - ……

3 - ……

4 - ……

5 - ……

CARL LINNAEUS

In 1707, Carl Linnaeus was born in a small town in the south of Sweden. His father is a Lutheran pastor and a good gardener. At school, he isn't a very good student, but he loves everything concerning nature.

His parents want him to become a pastor like his father, but the teachers don't agree with them. In 1728, Carl goes to the University of Uppsala, the best school in Sweden.

Three years later, Linnaeus travels to Lapland and other remote areas of Sweden to collect rare plants. He publishes detailed accounts about his trips.

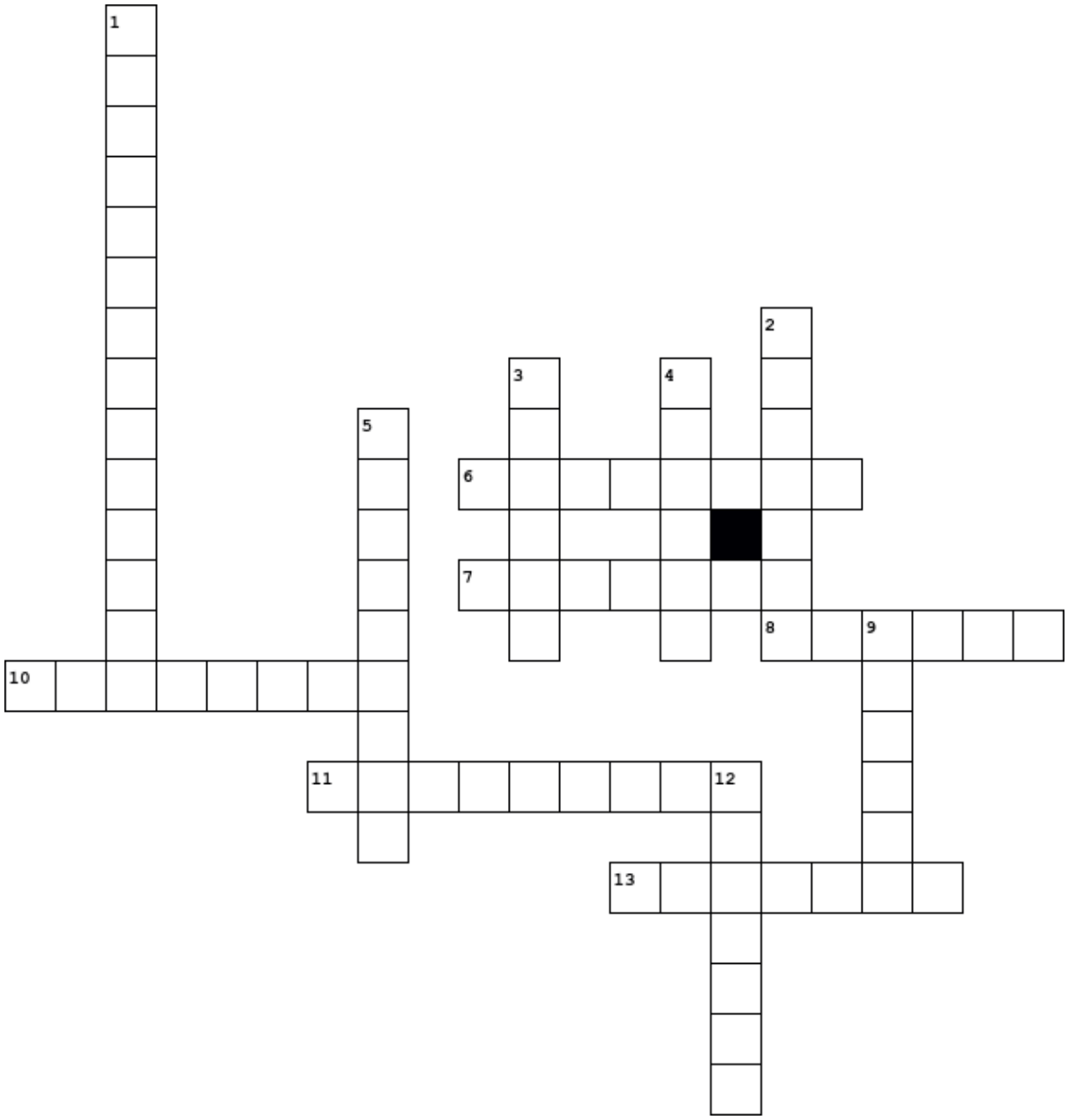
In 1741, Linnaeus becomes a professor at the University of Uppsala. He is responsible of the botanical garden and at the same time he teaches botany and natural history. Students love him and come from all over the Europe to listen to his lessons. He dies in 1778 at the age of seventy-one.

He creates the modern system of naming organisms called **binomial nomenclature**. Linnaeus identifies about 7,700 plants and gives each one a scientific, latin name. He does the same thing for about 4,400 animals.
Those names are still in use today, for example *Bellis perennis* L. (L.=Linnaeus).

Linnaeus also creates a **classification system**. He divides plants and animals into kingdoms and other groups based on observable characteristics.

Key words:
agree: essere d'accordo
account: resoconto
kingdoms: regni

Carl Linnaeus



Across

6. His father is a Lutheran pastor and a good .....

7. At school, he isn't a very good .....

8. He creates the modern ..... of naming organisms.

10. He divides plants and animals into .....

11. He is responsible of the ..... garden.

13. In 1728, Carl goes to the University of .....

Down

1. Linnaeus also creates a ..... system.

2. His ..... want him to become a pastor.

3. Linnaeus identifies about 7,700 .....

4. Carl Linnaeus was born in a small town in the south of .....

5. Linnaeus becomes a ..... at the University of Uppsala.

9. At ....., he isn't a very good student.

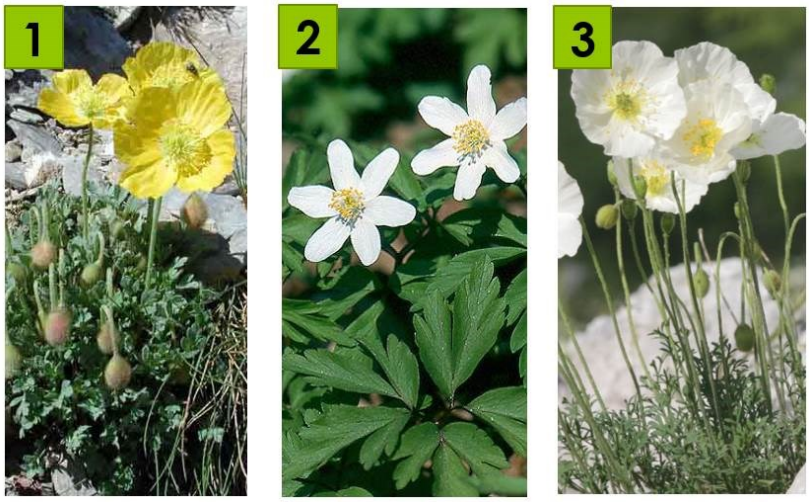
12. Linnaeus travels to .....

THE NAME OF THE SPECIES

Let's identify pairs of similar species:

1: Linaria alpina, 2: Linaria tonzigii, 3: Papaver rhaeticum

Which are the two similar plants? 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐



Let's identify pairs of similar species:

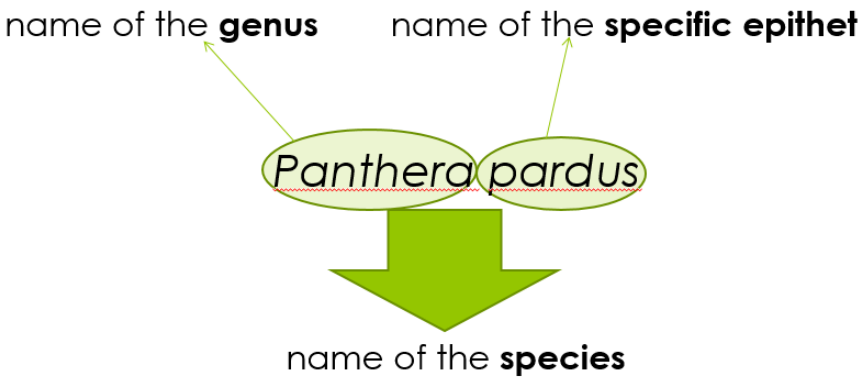
1: Papaver rhaeticum, 2: Anemone nemorosa, 3: Papaver alpinum

Which are the two similar plants? 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐

Different species with similar characteristics are classified into a same group called **genus**.

Considering the name of the species the first word (beginning with a capital letter) indicates the **genus**, the second word (beginning with a small letter) indicates the **specific epithet**.

So, the *leopard* has this scientific name:



THE DEFINITION OF SPECIES

We usually define **species** a group of organisms having some characteristics in common so that they can mate, **giving birth to fertile baby animals** (and they can give birth to other baby animals).
To be similar it isn't sufficient to define the belonging to the same species!!

Considering a **horse** and a **donkey**: these two animals are similar in their shape, structure and function but if they mate their offspring is a **mule** (from a female horse and male donkey) or to a **hinny** ("bardotto" in Italian, from a male horse and female donkey) and both are **sterile animals**, they can't give birth to baby animals.

During the last decades there have been matings between animals in captivity belonging to different species. For example, when an African **zebra** and a domestic **donkey** mate, their offspring is a sterile "**zonkey**".