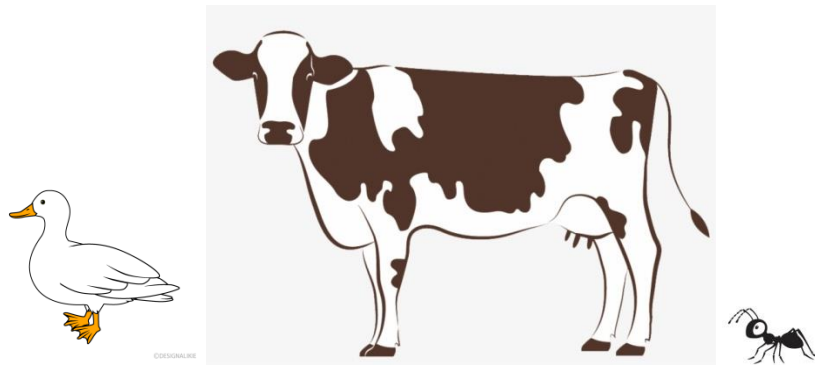


WHO IS A HORSE RELATED TO? INFORMATION SHEET

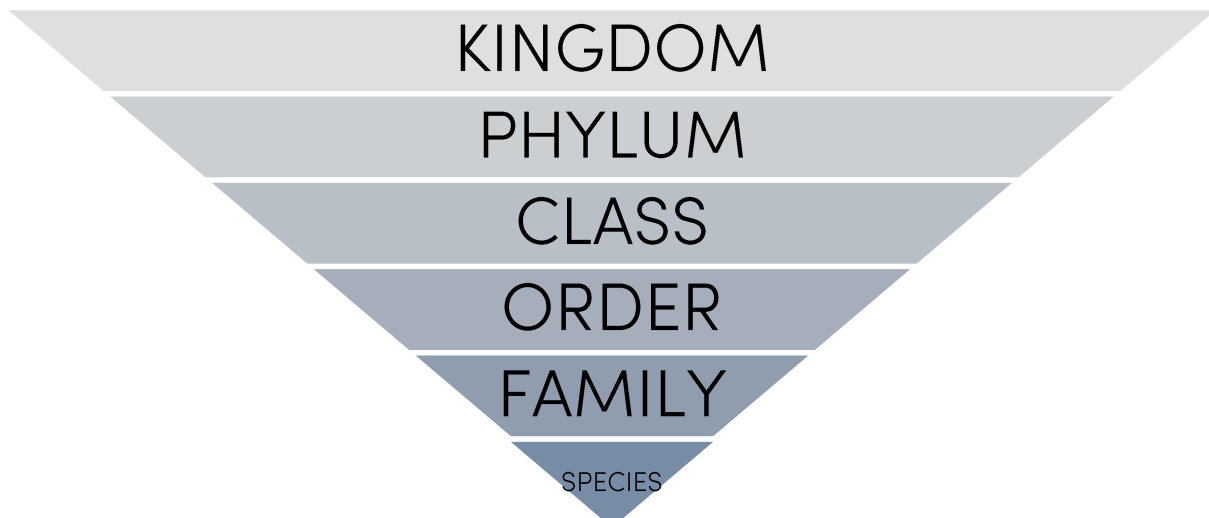
We are going to learn about how scientists sort living things. To sort living things, scientists use a system called biological classification. To classify things means to place them in different categories, or groups. Scientists place living things in groups to understand the similarities and differences between organisms.

For Example: A duck, cow, and ant are similar because they all have legs and can move.

A duck, cow, and ant are different because the duck has two legs and is covered in feathers, the cow has four legs and is covered in fur, and the ant has six legs and has a hard covering over its body.



Biological classification is separated into 6 different levels that we will discuss today. The levels go from very general with a lot of members in them, to very specific with fewer members in them. Below we have a picture that represents those 6 levels.



The first and biggest level is **Kingdom**. Each of the kingdoms have a lot of members in them. We are going to look at three of the kingdoms:

- 1) **The Animal Kingdom:** All animals can move on their own. Animals can't make their own food. They must eat to survive.

Example: A duck, cow, and ant are all members of the animal kingdom .

- 2) **The Plant Kingdom:** Plants can't move on their own. Plants can make their own food using a process called photosynthesis. Plants use air, water and sunlight to make the food they need to survive.

Example: A tree, grass, and flowers are all members of the plant kingdom.

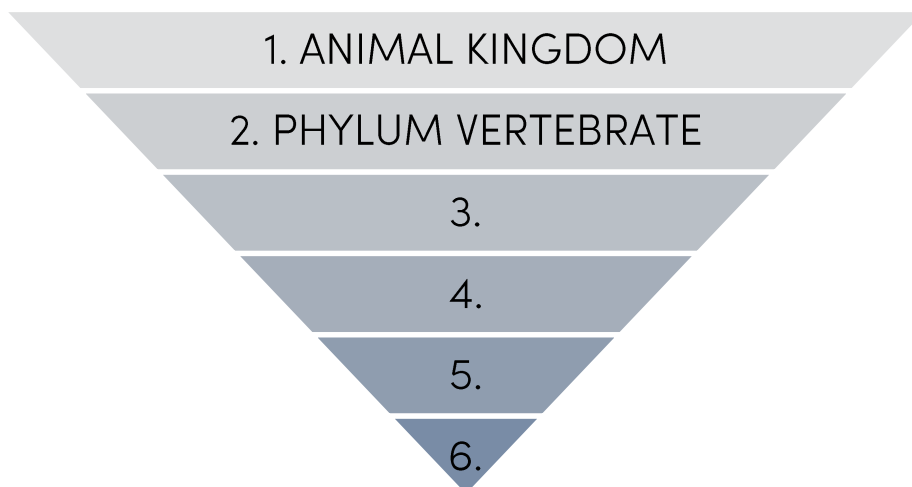
- 3) **The Fungi Kingdom:** Fungi look a lot like plants and like plants they can't move. They were once thought to be part of the plant kingdom, but unlike plants, fungi can't make their own food. Fungi break up decaying organisms that they can absorb as food. So, fungi are decomposers.

Example: A mushroom you eat on pizza and yeast used to make bread are members of the fungi kingdom.

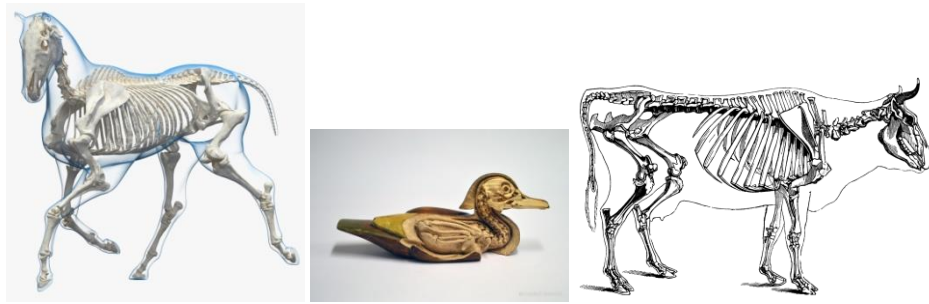
Which family do you think the horse belong to, Plant, Animal, or Fungi?

Horses have to eat, they can't create their own food so they aren't part of the Plant Kingdom. Horses can move so they aren't part of the Fungi Kingdom.

Horses are part of the Animal Kingdom along with the duck, cow, and ant!

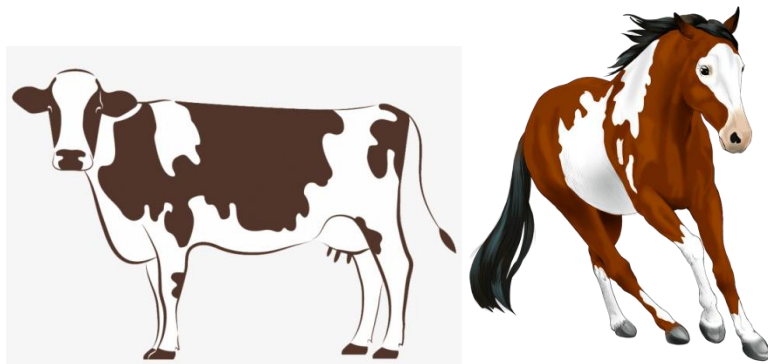


The second level of classification is the **phylum**. Horses are part of **phylum vertebrate**. This means that horses have a skeleton with a back bone! Phylum vertebrate only includes other animals with a backbone. Ducks and cows are also members of phylum vertebrate, but ants don't have a backbone so they are not members of phylum vertebrate.



Class is the third level of classification. Horses belong to the **class mammalia**. Mammals can nurse their young and have hair or fur. Do ducks and cows have fur? Can they nurse their young?

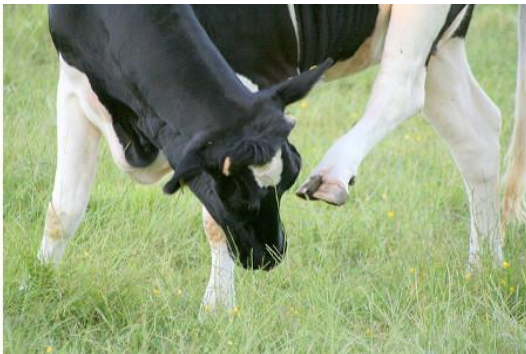
If you said that cows have fur and can nurse their young, you are correct! Ducks have feathers, not fur. Ducks are not members of class mammalian.





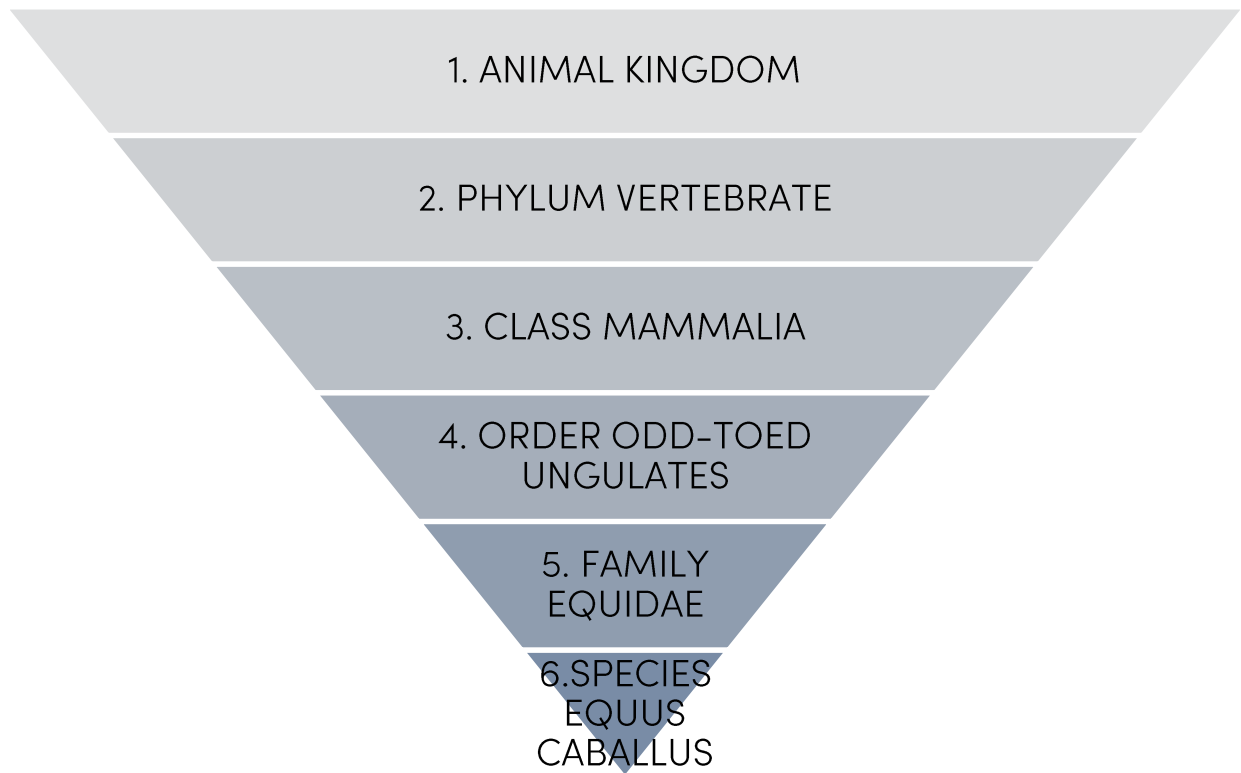
Order is the fourth level of classification. Order is more specific than class. Only member of class mammalia that have hooves and walk on an odd number of toes are part of the **order odd-toed ungulates**.

How many toes are on this cow's foot?



If you said two, you are correct! This means that cows are not members of order odd-toed ungulates. Horses have one toe that they walk on. This makes them members of order odd-toed ungulates.

The fifth level of classification is **family**. Horses are in the **family equidae** along with donkeys and zebras. Members of this family have manes, tails, and single hooves. They have long heads and necks and eat grass.



The sixth level of classification is **species**. Horses belong to the **species equus caballus**. All breeds of horses, ponies, and draft horses are part of this species. Donkeys and zebras are the closest related species to horses but they belong to their own, different species.

