

**Basic Taxonomy**

Use the following classification key, answer the following questions.

	LION	HOUSE CAT	DOG	HUMAN
	Animal	Animal	Animal	Animal
	Chordate	Chordate	Chordate	Chordate
	Mammal	Mammal	Mammal	Mammal
	Carnivore	Carnivore	Carnivore	Primate
	Felidae	Felidae	Canidae	Hominidae
	<i>Felis</i>	<i>Felis</i>	<i>Canis</i>	<i>Homo</i>
	<i>leo</i>	<i>domesticus</i>	<i>familiaris</i>	<i>sapiens</i>

1. In the left hand column of the chart above, put in the correct taxonomic levels.
2. Which taxon includes the most specific characteristics? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which taxon includes more species, an order or a family? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which taxon includes only organisms that can successfully interbreed? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Using the information in the chart, what can you conclude about the classification taxa of an organism with the scientific name *Canis mesomelas*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If two organisms belong to the same family, what other taxonomic groups do the organisms have in common? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Which two organisms in the chart are most closely related? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Who is more closely related – a dog and a cat or a dog and a man? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why don't the lion and the cat belong to the same species? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Write the scientific name for man. \_\_\_\_\_