

Year 5 and 6



Carl Linnaeus

Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) was a Swedish naturalist and explorer who was the first to create a system to define species of organisms by name.

Linnaeus grew up in Småland - a poor region in southern Sweden. His early interest in botany was channelled by a teacher at his school. In 1727, Linnaeus began studying medicine at Lund University but transferred to Uppsala University a year later. Because of his financial situation, he couldn't attend all of his lectures. However, the university professor, Olof Celsius, provided Linnaeus access to his library. Linnaeus went on to teach botany between 1730 and 1732 to help subsidise his studies.

Biodiversity is the variety of plants and animals in the world or a particular habitat. Linnaeus' system of grouping living things and giving them individual names created order which allows us more easily to study the many millions of plants and animals in our world. This system, the binomial system, is still used today whereby each species of plant and animal is given a genus name followed by a specific name. Both of these names are in Latin.