



Scientific Names

A LATIN DESCRIPTION OF YOU

Scientists use a method called binomial nomenclature (two-name naming system) to identify organisms. These scientific names often tell something about the organism being named. The organisms first name is general and puts the animal into a general group. The second name is more specific and puts the animal into a specific group (a species). For instance, *Pinus alba* is the scientific name of the white pine. Its first name, *Pinus*, is common to all pines. Its second name, *alba*, is its species name and tells us that this species is white (alba = white). What can be learned about the following organisms by looking at their scientific names:

- Salmo clarkii* - cutthroat trout
- Odocoileus virginianus* - White-tailed deer
- Sciurus nigre* - Squirrel
- Ursus arctos horribilis* - Grizzly bear
- Cervus elephus* - Elk

From the list of words on the following page, choose a name that a scientist might assign to you. It should put you into a group and tell something specific about you. Put your scientific name on a 5x7 card as instructed, and prepare to tell others in the class why you selected the name you did.

ROOT WORDS COMMONLY USED IN NAMING ORGANISMS

a - not, opposite of
aero - air
alba - white
alpe - mountainous
alvio - cavity, hole,
annua - yearly
annul - ring
anterio - top towards the head
anti - opposed to, against
arbora - tree
arcto - north
arthro - joint
auto - self
aves - bird
bi - two
bio - life
carcino - cancer
cardio - heart
cardio - heart
carne - meat
carpus - fingers
cauda, caudo - tail
cava - hollow
celestia - heaven
centi - 100
cephalus - head
cera - horn
cheli - claw, fang
chondros - grain
chromo - colored
coel - cavity
com - together
con - with
curvi - curled, crooked
cuspid - molar
cyano - dark blue
cyto - cell
dactyla - toes
danta - tooth
dendro - branch
derm - skin
domestica - domesticated, tame
dorsa - back
draco - dragonlike
ecto - outside
elastica - stretchable
elephus - ivory
endo - lower, bottom
epi - top
equilo - equal, same
escens - belly
ex, exo - outside
flav - yellow
flora - flower

flora - flower, plant
folia - leaf
gastro - stomach
geo - earth
glabra - smooth
glaucia - blue
glomer - sphere shaped
glyco - sugar, glucose
gymno - naked, without covering
helio - sun
helmintho - worm
hemato - blood
hepato - liver
herba - plant
hybrida - mongrel, mix
hydro - water
hyper - more than, over
hypo - less than, under
ichthyos - fish
iso - equal
itis - swelling of
kine - move
kystism cystis - sac
latera - side
leuco - white
lipo - fat
luna - moon
lyso - digest, breakdown
macro - big
mal - bad
mandible - jaw
medio - middle
melas - black
mens - month
meso - middle
meta - middle
micro - small
milli - 1000
minera - mineral, ore
mitos - threas
mono - one
montan - mountain
morph - shape
morpha - shape
mucus - slimy secretion
mutare - to change
myco - fungus
myo - muscle
nana - dwarf, small
nata - birth
nauseo - sickening
nema - to spin
neo - new
nephros - kidney

neuro - nerve
noct - night
nucleo - nut, kernel
obesus - devoured
obitus - dead
oct - eight
ology - study of
omni - all
opter - wing
opti - eye
ora - mouth
orbis - circle
ornith - birds
osteo - bone
otic - pertaining to the ear
ova - egg
penta - five
phage - to devour, surround
philos - loving
photo - light
phyto - plant
platy - flat
pod - foot
poly - many
posterior - bottom
probosca - nose
proto - first
pseudo - false
pungens - with odor, smell
quad - four
rena - kidney
reticula - netlike
rhiza - root
rhyncho - nose
rubra - red
rubra - red
ruga - rough, wrinkled
sacchara - sugar
semi - partly, half
sens - perceive, feel
soma - body
sperm - seed
terra - earth
therm - heat
tortus - twisted
tri - three
umbel - umbrella shaped
undula - up and down
uni - one
uro - tail
vena - vein
ventra - front, belly
vore - to eat
zoo - animal