

Carolus Linnaeus



Key Terms

- taxonomy
- classifying
- medicine
- binomial nomenclature
- contributions

Carolus Linnaeus, also known as Carl Linnaeus, was a scientist famous for his work in organizing, or **classifying**, living things into groups. This is also known as **taxonomy**. He was born in Sweden in 1707. Much of his work is still used today.

When he was young, Carolus loved nature and especially plants. He enjoyed walking with his father in the gardens and loved to plant the gardens as well. He was a smart student but found his classes rather boring compared to being outside with plants.

Linnaeus went to university, then to medical school, and became a doctor in only two weeks! He proved in that short time that he knew a great deal about **medicine**.

He is famous for creating a two-part naming system, **binomial nomenclature**. For example, when we refer to humans as *Homo sapiens*, we are using Linnaeus's system of using two names. Carolus also wrote two famous books about nature and plants.

Due to his amazing **contributions** to science, Carolus was made a knight by the King of Sweden in 1761. Much of his work is still used by scientists today.

Making Connections

Many famous people are granted the honor of being named a knight. Another famous scientist who was dubbed a knight is James Watson, who helped discover the structure of DNA.

Interesting Facts:

- Linnaeus was the first scientist to place humans with primates in the same family group.
- He was one of the first to study ecology as a science.
- Linnaeus's study expeditions encouraged Darwin and Wallace to make scientific expeditions.
- He invented index cards to keep track of his specimens.