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| The Organism Investigation Station Lab**Learning goals:** * Students will be able to understand how organisms can be classified and how their scientific names help describe their traits.
* Students will be able to understand how a taxonomic key helps to identify organisms.

**Procedure:**1. Study the organism’s appearance, structure, texture (for the seeds only).
	* For the **Zoo Zone**: observe at least 3 different jarred animals
	* For the **Greenhouse Garage**: Observe at least 3 different s
	* For **Microscope Mania** : Observe at least 2 slides
2. Draw each organism that you observe as detailed as possible.
3. Write 3-4 characteristics or traits you observe for each specimen (\*Look for special QR codes around the room to help give you some clue to a trait for your organisms)
4. Try to classify the domain and kingdom for each organism and justify why you chose that classification.
5. Then, create the perfect scientific name for at least 2 animals, 2 seeds and 2 microscope organisms.
6. Write a short explanation of your reasoning of each name you created.

**Now it’s YOUR TURN:** Using one trait from each category you observed, **create your own organism**! * One a paper plate, draw and color what your creature would look like if it had a trait from Zoo Zone, Greenhouse Garage and Microscope Mania.
* On the back of a paper plate, write down the three traits you used and add 2 more traits.
* Don’t forget to give your new creature a scientific name and a common name.

**Remember**: An organism’s name often holds clues to its anatomy, habitat, or behavior. All plants and animals have a scientific name, and some also possess a common name. For example a dog (Your pet Fido) has a scientific name of *Canis lupus familiaris.** Experiment with different languages: for example, “rouge” means red in French.
* Consider prefixes: “tri-” for three, or “mega-” extra-large.
* Imagine the kind of job this organism might have if it were human.
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