Year 5 Science: Fungi, bacteria, species and scientific names

Name: _____ Date: _____

Try these without your notes first, then check the answer key.

Practice

1. Is yeast a plant, an animal or a fungus?

2. The bacteria that turn milk into yoghurt: are they helpful, neutral or harmful to us?

3. In the scientific name Homo sapiens, which word is the genus, and which word starts with a capital letter?

4. A horse and a donkey have a mule, and the mule cannot have young. Are horses and donkeys the same species?

5. Are Apteryx mantelli and Apteryx owenii close relatives? How can you tell?

Fix the mistake

6. Correct this statement: "Mushrooms are plants because they grow out of the ground."

7. Correct this statement: "All bacteria are germs that make you sick."

8. Correct this statement: "The human scientific name is written homo Sapiens."

9. Correct this statement: "Any two animals that can have a baby together are the same species."

Answer key (for parents and tutors)

1. Is yeast a plant, an animal or a fungus?
   A fungus.
2. The bacteria that turn milk into yoghurt: are they helpful, neutral or harmful to us?
   Helpful.
3. In the scientific name Homo sapiens, which word is the genus, and which word starts with a capital letter?
   Homo is the genus, and it is the word with the capital letter; sapiens is all lower case.
4. A horse and a donkey have a mule, and the mule cannot have young. Are horses and donkeys the same species?
   No. The young of one species must be able to have young of their own, and mules cannot.
5. Are Apteryx mantelli and Apteryx owenii close relatives? How can you tell?
   Yes, because they share the same genus name, Apteryx.
6. Correct this statement: "Mushrooms are plants because they grow out of the ground."
   Mushrooms are fungi: they cannot make food from sunlight, so they feed by growing into and soaking up their food.
7. Correct this statement: "All bacteria are germs that make you sick."
   Only some bacteria are harmful; many are harmless, and some, like those in yoghurt and your gut, are helpful.
8. Correct this statement: "The human scientific name is written homo Sapiens."
   The genus has the capital and the species part is lower case: Homo sapiens, in italics.
9. Correct this statement: "Any two animals that can have a baby together are the same species."
   Their young must also be able to have young; a horse and a donkey make a mule, which almost never can.