




Kingdom	1
Phylum	2
Class	3
Order	4
Family	5
Genus	6
Species	7

Plant	1
Anthophyta (Angiosperms)	2
Magnoliopsida (Dicots)	3
Asterales	4
Asteraceae	5
Taraxacum	6
 Taraxacum officinale (common dandelion)	7

1	Plant
2	Anthophyta (Angiosperms)
3	Magnoliopsida (Dicots)
4	Sapindales
5	Sapindaceae
6	Acer
7	 Acer Pseudoplatanus (sycamore maple)

1	Plant
2	Anthophyta (Angiosperms)
3	Magnoliopsida (Dicots)
4	Rosales
5	Rosaceae
6	Rosa
7	 Rosa kordesii (kordesii rose)

	1
Plant	
	2
Ginkgophyta	
	3
Ginkgoopsida	
	4
Ginkgoales	
	5
Ginkgoaceae	
	6
Ginkgo	
	7
Ginkgo biloba (ginkgo tree)	

	1
Plant	
	2
Pinophyta	
	3
Pinopsida	
	4
Pinales	
	5
Pinaceae	
	6
Picea	
	7
Picea glauca (white spruce)	

Instructions: Print on cardstock, laminate, and cut cards apart. You may want to code the backs of cards to keep them together, for instance, put a blue sticker on the back of each “rose” card, a red sticker on the back of each “gingko” card, etc. It also helps to store each plant card set in its own envelope.

This material is for ages 9-12. Before doing this work, the child should have completed:

All “Parts of” Botany Cards
All “Types of” Botany Cards
The Botany Charts and Experiments
Monocot & Dicot Sorting
The Plant Kingdom Chart & Nomenclature

The traditional way to introduce this work is with nesting boxes (boxes that fit inside each other, each smaller than the next), or nesting dolls. You can find nesting boxes at the Container Store (or their website), and nesting dolls on eBay. You will need 7 boxes or dolls.

The largest box or doll represents the kingdom, in this case, the Plant Kingdom. After that they go in descending order to the species.

To present this material:

Show the child one of the “species” cards, something familiar like the rose or dandelion. Say, “We know this is a rose. But we want to know more about this rose. With these [dolls or boxes], we can find out exactly where this rose belongs on the Plant Kingdom Chart.

As the child places the boxes or dolls in order from largest to smallest, they should also put out the first set of cards which shows the categories (Kingdom, Class, Order, Family, etc)

After that, they can take the cards for the first plant and put them in order and then do that for the rest of the plants. The “Species” name is always the “Genus” name followed by the “Species” name.

Notes:

This material gets its name from the nesting dolls that were first produced in China.

The Plant Kingdom has far more than 7 levels of division (called taxonomic ranks). As a matter of fact, including things like tribes, subtribes, superfamilies, subfamilies, etc. for each category, a given plant could have up to 35 levels of taxonomic ranks.

Obviously that level of study is very detailed, and since this is an introduction to taxonomic classification, we have kept the levels to 7—the seven specified by the International Code of Nomenclature as main taxonomic ranks. In Botany classification, the rank “Division” is equivalent to “Phylum”.

Any child who shows interest in learning more can pick other plants and investigate their taxonomy. Generally you can Google the plant name and find websites that list its classification.