

LEVEL

7

Upper
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Compass
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Nonfiction 7-9

Classifying Plants

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Being a Botanist

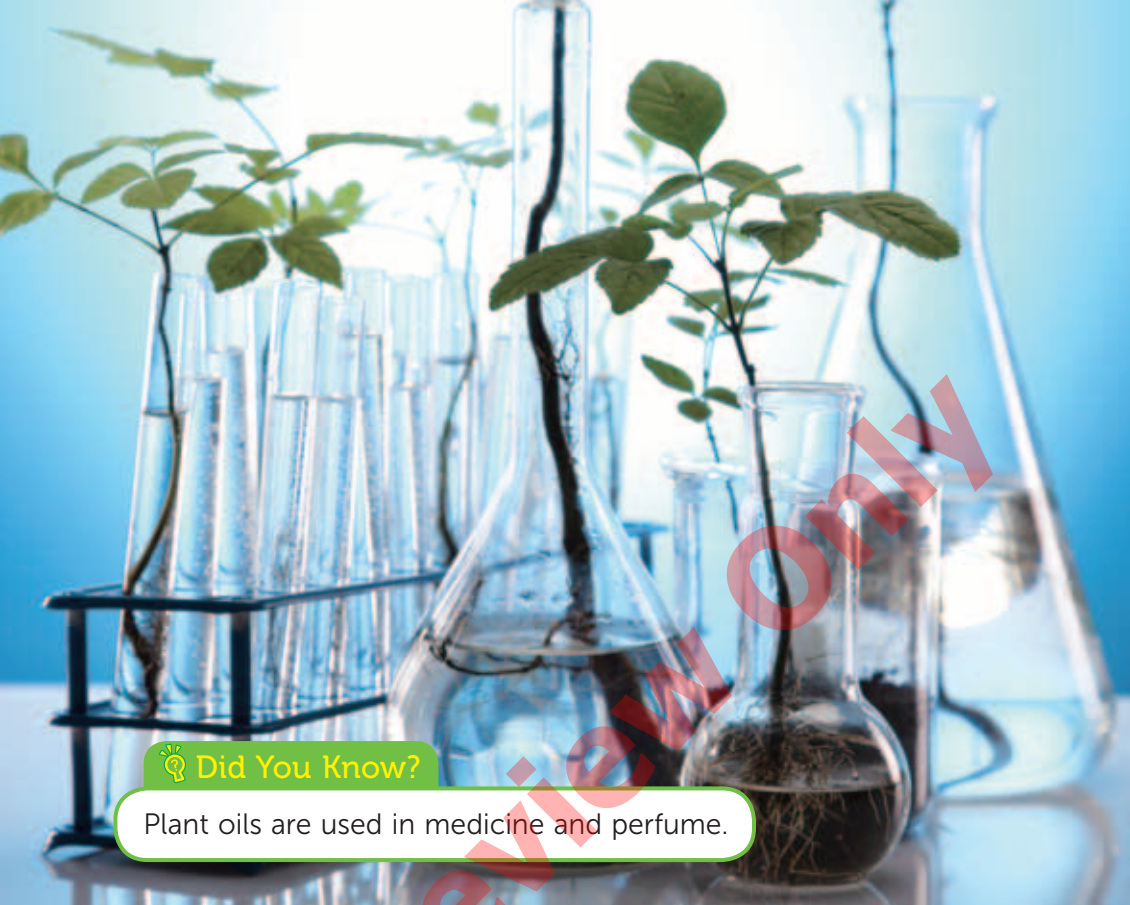
Take a good look outside. What do you see?

You probably see a lot of plants. You will see grass, flowers, **shrubs**, and trees. If you go to a place that sells plants, try to count the number of plants you can see.

Plants are very important to people. Plants give us food. They can be used to make medicine. They are also beautiful.



What are the different plants you see?



Did You Know?

Plant oils are used in medicine and perfume.

Do not forget that plants even help make the air we breathe! Since plants are useful to us, it is a good idea to **classify** them. This means we can put them into groups. This will help us learn about them.

Like animals, plants are living things that breathe and grow. Many students and scientists spend their time studying plants. The study of plants is called botany. Scientists who study plants are called **botanists**.



Botanists study plants so they can learn more about our world.

Botanists study plants to learn where they come from. They also study how plants eat and **reproduce**. They study how plants can be used for food. They also learn what kinds of things can be made from plants. For example, this printed book is made from paper, which was made from the wood of trees.

They also study how to protect plants from disease and insects. They study plants to find new ways to use them.

Classifying Plants

Botanists talk about plants in a special way. This helps name the plant. It also helps **describe** them. This is important since there are more than 260,000 **species** of plants on Earth. They also use a different language so they will not get confused. If you become a botanist, you will have to know this language.

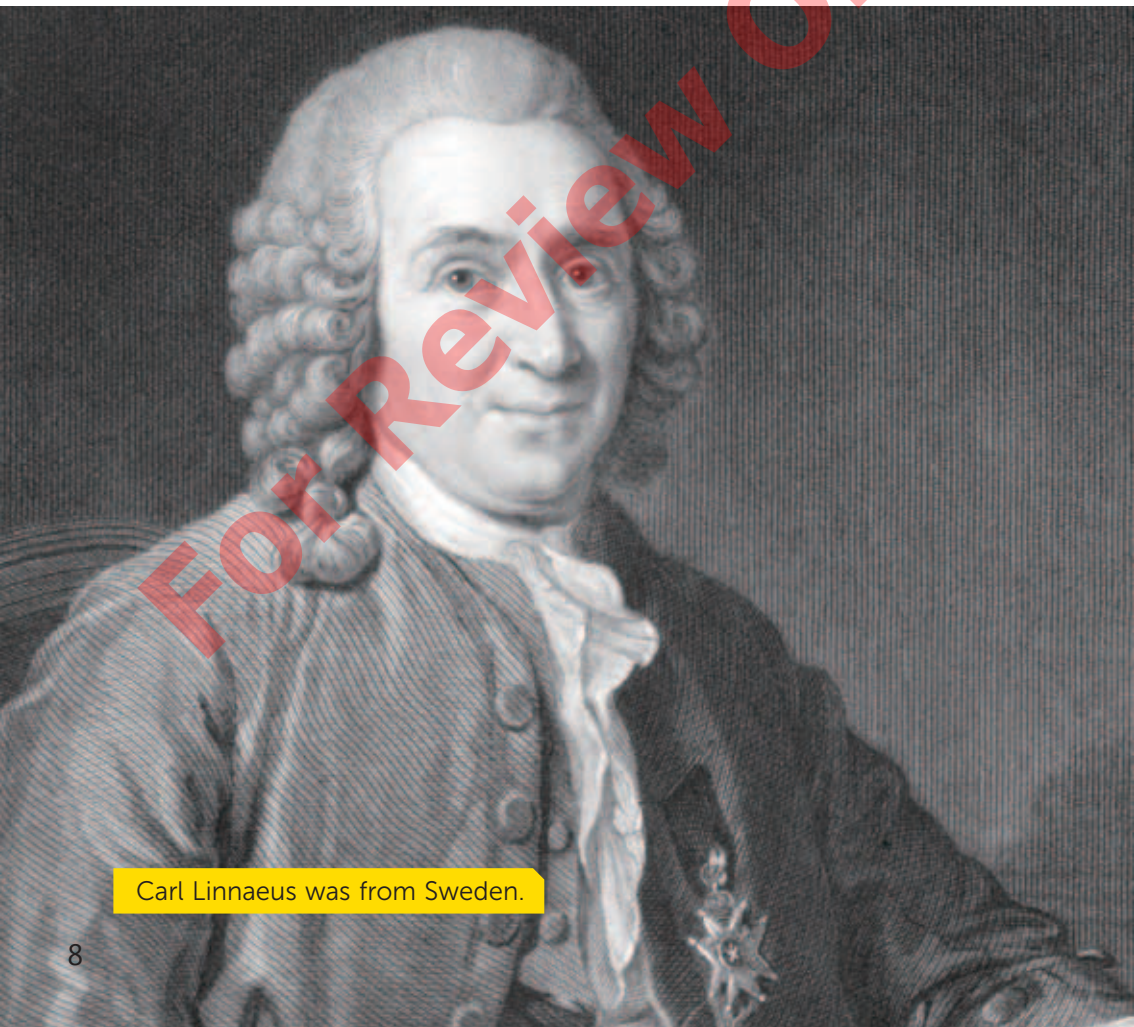
Every plant has a scientific name. Scientific names are written in a language known as **Latin**. It is very old. Botanists use Latin because the first botanists wrote and spoke in Latin.



Did You Know?

This apple is called *Malus domestica* in Latin.

A man named Carl Linnaeus lived in Sweden in the 1700s. He was a doctor, a scientist, and a **zoologist**. Linnaeus loved nature. He was very interested in living things. As a scientist, Linnaeus spent time traveling in forests. He went to places that did not have many people. He was looking for new animals and plants. He wrote many books on what he found.



Carl Linnaeus was from Sweden.

Linnaeus was curious. He wanted to study plants because of the problems in his country. During that time, his country was poor. There was not enough food for everyone. He wanted to find new plants that people could eat. He wanted to grow cheap vegetables so everyone could buy them. He did not want people to be hungry.

