

Understanding Plant Scientific Names

Biology · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the primary system used for naming plants scientifically?

- A) Common Names
- B) Local Dialects
- C) Binomial Nomenclature**
- D) Descriptive Titles

2. The scientific name of a plant consists of how many parts?

- A) One
- B) Two**
- C) Three
- D) Four

3. The first part of a plant's scientific name refers to its:

- A) Species
- B) Genus**
- C) Family
- D) Order

4. The second part of a plant's scientific name is the:

- A) Genus
- B) Species epithet**
- C) Family name
- D) Order name

5. What is the scientific name for the common apple?

- A) *Prunus domestica*
- B) *Malus domestica***
- C) *Solanum tuberosum*
- D) *Zea mays*

6. Who is credited with establishing the system of binomial nomenclature?

- A) Gregor Mendel
- B) Charles Darwin
- C) Carl Linnaeus**
- D) Rosalind Franklin

7. Scientific names are typically written in which language?

- A) English
- B) French
- C) Latin**
- D) Greek

8. The genus name is always capitalized.

- A) True**
- B) False

9. The species epithet is always capitalized.

- A) True
- B) False**

10. When writing a scientific name, the genus and species epithet should be:

- A) Bolded
- B) Underlined
- C) Italicized**
- D) In all caps

11. What does 'domestica' in 'Malus domestica' refer to?

- A) Its color
- B) Its origin
- C) Its cultivated nature**
- D) Its size

12. Why are scientific names important for plants?

- A) They are easier to remember
- B) They avoid confusion with common names**
- C) They indicate the plant's toxicity
- D) They are used only in textbooks

13. A plant with the same genus name but a different species epithet belongs to the same:

- A) Species
- B) Genus**
- C) Family
- D) Order

14. What is the scientific name for the potato?

A) *Malus domestica*

B) *Solanum tuberosum*

C) *Zea mays*

D) *Rosa gallica*

15. What is the scientific name for corn (maize)?

A) *Solanum tuberosum*

B) *Malus domestica*

C) *Zea mays*

D) *Pisum sativum*

16. Which part of the scientific name is often descriptive of the plant?

A) Genus

B) Species epithet

C) Family

D) Order

17. The scientific name '*Rosa gallica*' indicates a plant in the genus:

A) *Gallica*

B) *Rosa*

C) *Fragrans*

D) *Rubra*

18. What does the species epithet '*tuberosum*' in '*Solanum tuberosum*' likely refer to?

A) Its flower color

B) Its leaf shape

C) Its tuberous nature

D) Its height

19. Common names can vary greatly by region and language.

A) True

B) False

20. A species is a unique, distinct group of organisms that can interbreed.

A) True

B) False