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# LESSON 1: Introduction and Classification

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## FACTS TO KNOW

1. **taxonomic classification** – a scientific way of grouping living or extinct organisms
2. **scientific name** – usually derived from Latin or Greek and consisting of two parts, the genus and species
3. **vertebrate** – animals with backbones, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Give one example of where birds can be found in mythology or culture.

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2. Why do scientists use taxonomic classification?

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3. What are the eight categories of taxonomy, from broadest to most specific?

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4. What two names are given for each bird?

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5. How do you recognize the scientific name?

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6. Why is it important to know not only the common name, but the scientific name as well?

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## BIRD FACTS

### 1. Common Grackle

a. Scientific name: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Song: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Fun fact: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. European Starling

a. Scientific name: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Song: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Fun fact: \_\_\_\_\_

## ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss other mythologies or stories where birds have played a part.

**DIAGRAM:** Fill in the following blanks.

