

Guide to using the Special Species card game

Carl Linnaeus began the long-standing tradition of giving every species a two-part name (binomial) using Latin. When a scientist discovers a new species, they get to pick the second half of its name which we call its species name.

Instructions

Cards can be combined in many ways, but here's a good place to start!

1. Ask the participants to pick a red, blue and purple card.
2. Using these cards, think about what your species could look like and create a drawing.
3. After drawing the species, be sure to give it its scientific name using the Latin on the back of the cards. You can put the words in any order and add letters to make the name sound better (see 'Rhinoceros' below).
4. For extra fun, you can add a green or orange card to add more depth to the description.

Colour Key

Species type	e.g. vulp - fox
Directional	e.g. basi - at the bottom
Adjective	e.g. brachy - short
Colour/Number	e.g. alb - white
Body part/feature	e.g. ceph - hair

Examples of real species names:



Rhinoceros unicornis

rhin	cera	uni	cornu
nose	horn	one	horn

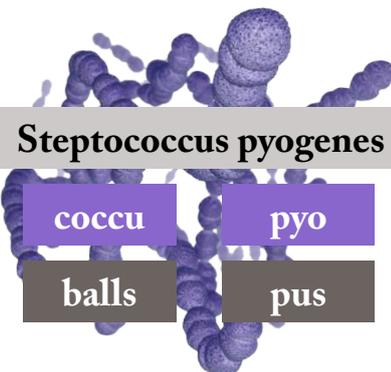
Canis lupus

cani	lupus
dog	wolf



Coccinella septempunctata

coccinella	septem	puncta
scarlet	seven	spots



Streptococcus pyogenes

strep	coccu	pyo	genes
chain	balls	pus	produces

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Musca domestica
A fly found in the house



Coronella austriaca
An Austrian snake with a crown-shaped marking on its head



Salamandra Salamandra
A salamander!



Pogona barbata
A bearded dragon with spines



Pieris brassicae
A butterfly that feeds on Pieris (a shrub) and cabbage



Lycosidae tigrosa
A 'wolf' spider that is fierce like a tiger



Dendrobates tinctorius azureus
A poisonous tree frog that is dyed blue