

# Key to the Kingdoms of Life

Use this key to find the name of the kingdom to which each organism belongs.

<b>1</b>	A. Organism is unicellular or colonial (containing many single cells). Few are multicellular with specialized structures.....	Go to 2.
	<b>OR</b>	
	B. Organism is multicellular.....	Go to 4.

<b>2</b>	A. Organism is <i>prokaryotic</i> , meaning “first life”. Is unicellular and has no cell organelles (no nucleus).....	Go to 3.
	<b>OR</b>	
	B. Organism may be unicellular, colonial or multicellular with visible nuclei.....	<b>Kingdom Protista</b>

<b>3</b>	A. Thrives in very harsh environments – hot springs, deep-sea hydrothermal vents, extremely salty or acidic water. Get energy for growth from chemical. The prefix <i>Archae</i> means “ancient”.....	<b>Kingdom Archaeobacteria</b>
	<b>OR</b>	
	B. May be a decomposer, a parasite, a symbiont (lives within other creatures and provides them benefits) or is photosynthetic. The prefix <i>Eu</i> means “true”.....	<b>Kingdom Eubacteria</b>

<b>4</b>	A. Multicellular; cells have cell walls.....	Go to 5.
	<b>OR</b>	
	B. Multicellular; cells do not have cell walls.....	<b>Kingdom Animalia</b>

<b>5</b>	A. Multicellular; cell walls are made of cellulose; are photosynthetic (uses sunlight to make “food”).....	<b>Kingdom Plantae</b>
	<b>OR</b>	
	B. Multicellular; cell walls are made of chitin (a tough, flexible carbohydrate). Get energy for growth mostly from dead organisms. Body is formed from tangled, interwoven, thread-like structures called <i>hyphae</i> .....	<b>Kingdom Fungi</b>