

## Scientific names



**Blackbird**  
*Turdus merula*

**Scientific names** have two parts. You can think of it as a bit like us having a surname and a Christian name. The Surname goes first with capital letter, and the Christian name second with a small letter. The Blackbird above has the scientific name *Turdus merula*.

**Scientific names** are all based on the old languages of Latin and Greek, so they all mean something but admittedly to us they can seem a bit strange and difficult. However, Biologists all over the world do use scientific names and it soon becomes more familiar and is extremely useful.

All known animals and plants have been given a **scientific name**, which is used all over the world.

If Biology interests you, then now is a good time to get started on understanding **scientific names**. Here are some simple tasks which you should be able to do on the internet.

1. Choose your 3 favourite wild animals. Find out what their **scientific names** are, practise saying them and try to remember them. Do not worry about pronouncing them correctly, just do your best, that is what we all do and it generally works!
2. Choose your three favourite wild plants and do the same as in the first task.
3. Now have some fun impressing someone with your new knowledge. Use a **scientific name** in a word game like Scrabble. Tell your friend or someone in your family the names you have learned.

Next time you see a picture of one of your chosen animals or plants in a book or on the TV, use the **scientific name**. You will begin to sound like a real Biologist!



**Goldcrest**  
*Regulus regulus*