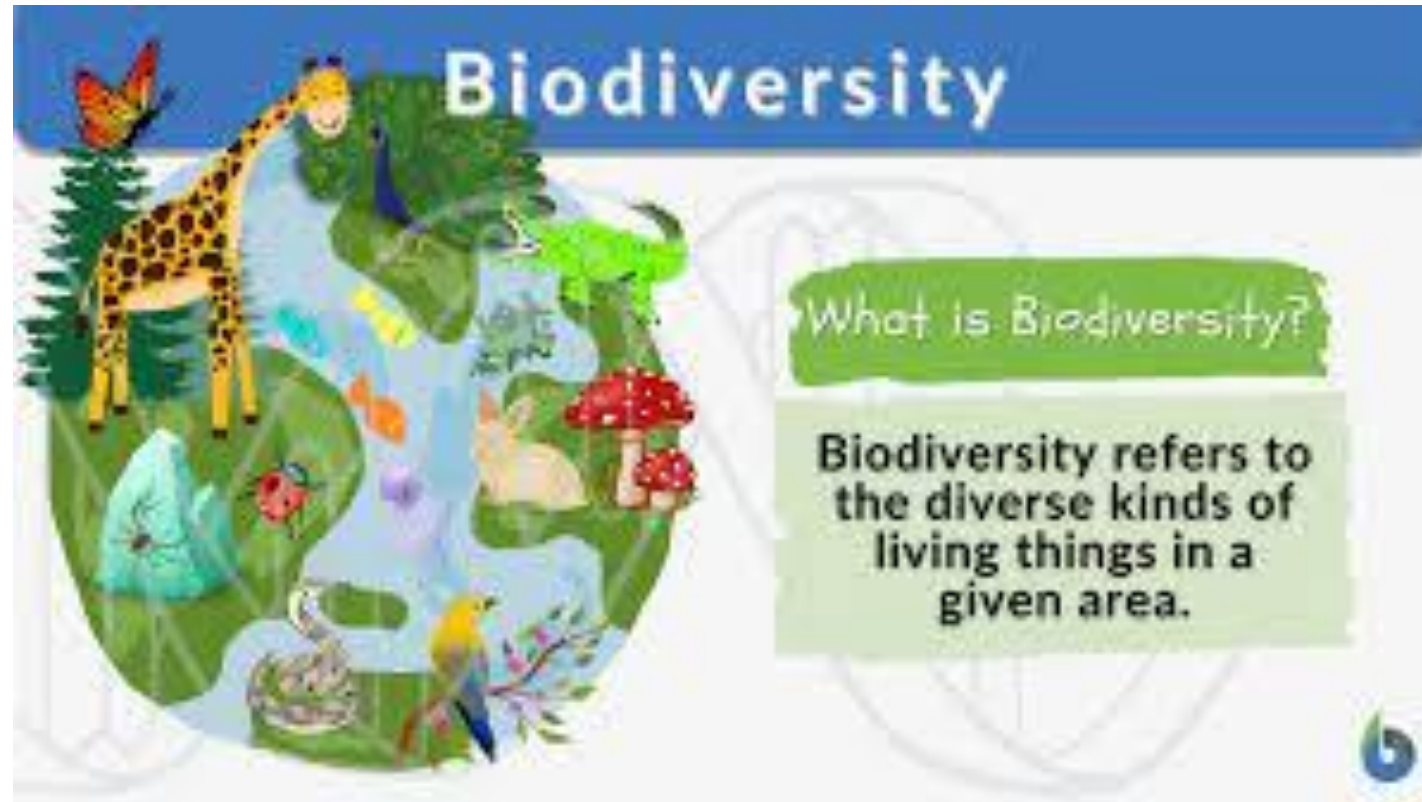
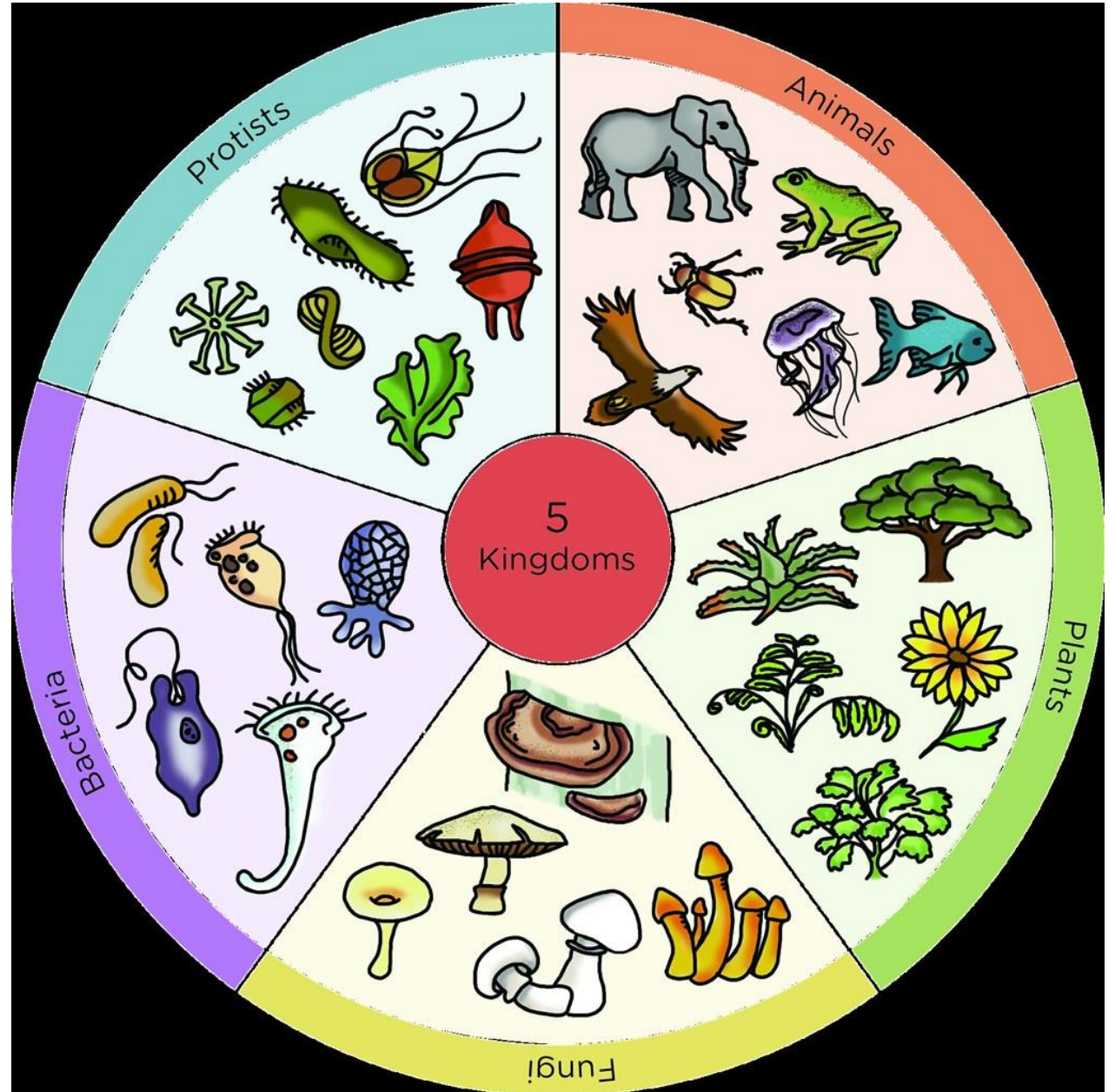


Life and living

Biodiversity



- **Biodiversity** refers to the large variety of plants, animals and micro-organisms in their habitats.
- The most widely accepted system of classification divides living organisms into five main groups, called **kingdoms**.



Monera: Organisms in this kingdom are usually single-celled organisms with no nucleus.

- A nucleus is a cell structure that contains hereditary information or DNA.
- Plant cells are surrounded by a thick, rigid cell wall and animal cells have a thin layer of cell membrane, called cytoplasm-the jellylike material outside the cell.
- An example of an organism in this kingdom is bacteria



Protista: Organisms in this kingdom are usually called protists.

- They are single-celled and usually move by cilia, flagella, or by amoeboid mechanisms.



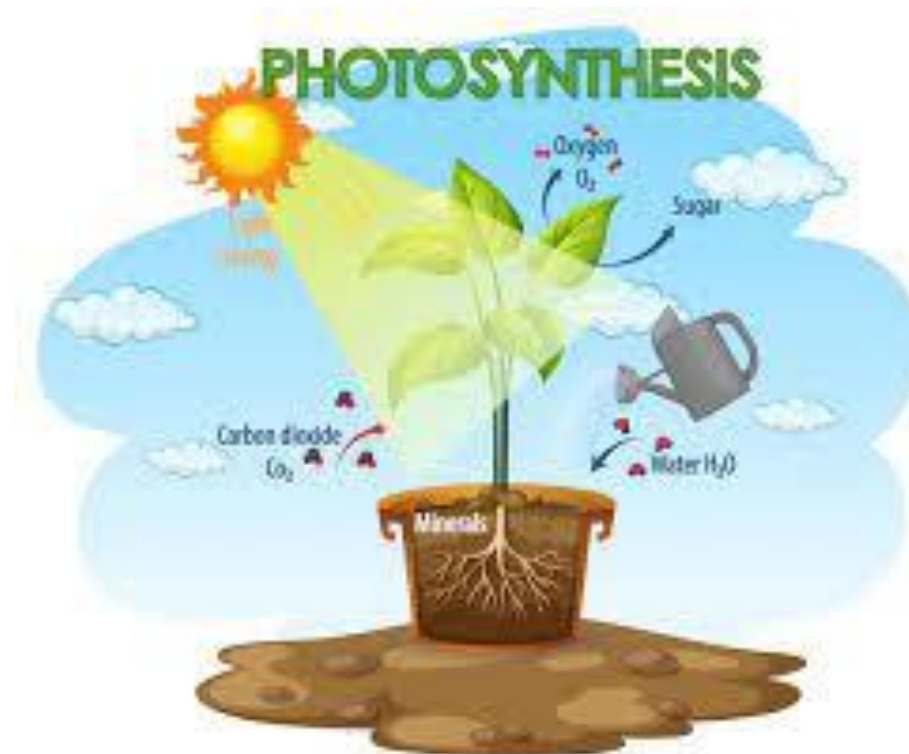
Fungi: are multicellular organisms

- They have no mechanisms for locomotion.
- Fungi range in size from microscopic to very large (such as mushrooms).
- Organisms in this kingdom cannot photosynthesize.
- They must get their food from the surrounding environment – usually decaying plants and animals.



Plantae: Plants are multicellular and most don't move.

- Nutrients are acquired by photosynthesis.
- Plants require sunlight.



Animalia: Animals are multicellular organisms that are usually able to move.

- They acquire nutrients by eating plants or other animals



Each of the kingdoms is very large and contains many different types of organisms.

The pie chart shows the approximate number of different organisms in each of the kingdoms.

