

## 20 - Classification of Organisms

**Life** is now classified into five kingdoms:

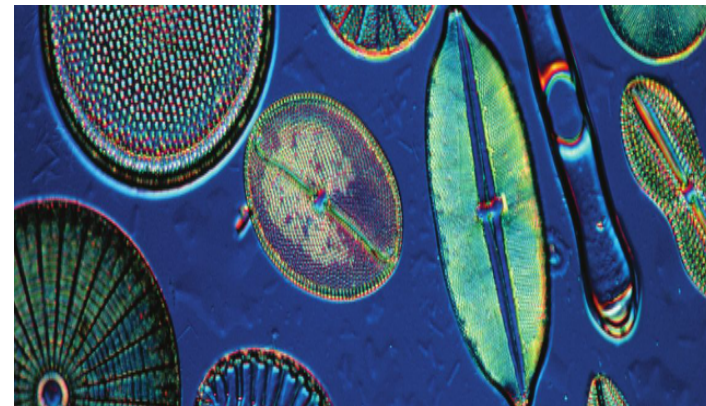
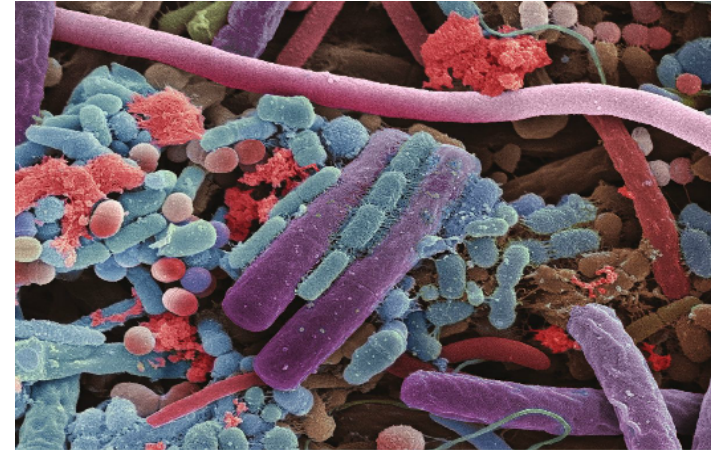
- Monera (or Prokaryotes), Protists (or Protoctists), Fungi, Plants and Animals.

**Monera** include bacteria and their main features are:

- they lack a true nucleus and membrane-enclosed organelles
- they are microscopic and single-celled
- they reproduce asexually

**Protists** include plankton, seaweeds, *Amoebae* and slime moulds and their features are:

- they have a true nucleus (i.e. it is surrounded by a membrane)
- they are single-celled or simple multicelled organisms

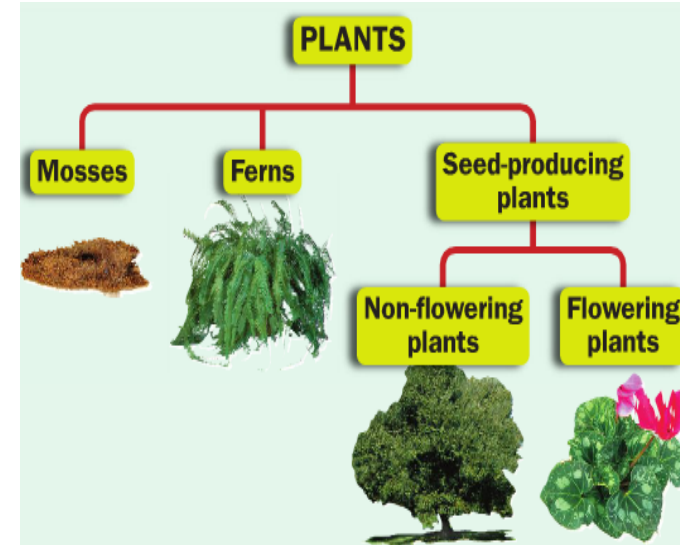
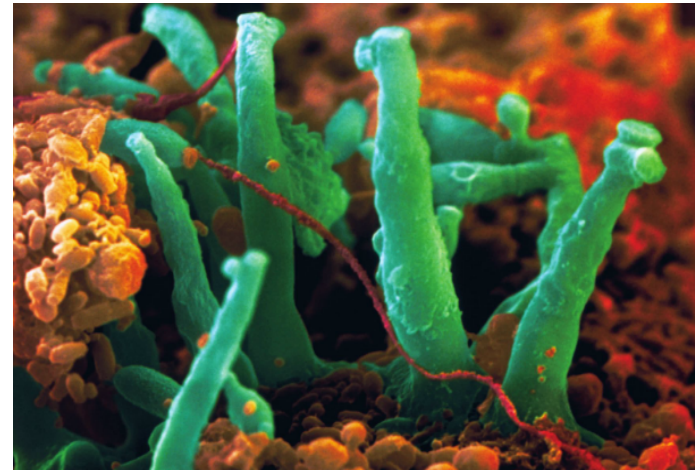


**Fungi** include mushrooms, moulds, mildews and yeasts and their features are:

- they absorb their food from outside
- they are composed of multicelled hyphae which form mycelia
- they have walls made of chitin
- they reproduce by spores

**Plants** include mosses, ferns and seed-producing plants (some without and some with flowers). Their features include:

- they are complex and multicelled
- they make their own food by photosynthesis
- they have cellulose cell walls
- their cells have large vacuoles
- they do not move
- they reproduce asexually and sexually
- they protect the embryo for a short time



**Animals** have most of the following features:

- they are multicelled and take in their food
- they have no cell walls
- they have nervous and muscular systems
- they reproduce sexually
- they have large non-motile eggs and small motile sperm

