



# 4.5 SPECIES AND TAXONOMY

**Courtship behaviour is essential for successful mating**

Need to be fertile, mature and receptive

Can identify a mate capable of breeding

Different behaviours for different species

Can recognise members of own species

Important for survival of offspring

Forms a pair bond

To synchronise mating

To ensure the other member is in a physiological state to breed

**Species**

Similar in terms of appearance, biochemical processes and behaviour

Two organisms are of the same species if they can breed together to produce living, fertile offspring

Example = homo sapiens

First name = generic name, the genus name

Second name = specific name, the species name

Binomial naming

**Classification**

**Taxonomy - classifying biological organisms into groups**

Originally based on shared characteristics

Domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species

A hierarchy

Each group is a taxon (plural taxa)

Smaller groups within larger groups

No overlap

**Phylogenetics - classifying organisms into groups based on evolutionary relationships**

Advances in gene technology have allowed us to identify and clarify evolutionary relationships

AQA

