Lab #1: *Biology* (Chapter 1)

Baraminology

INTRODUCTION:

The objective of this laboratory is to introduce the student to baraminological categorization.

MATERIALS

- Lab notebook
- Writing utensil
- 10-12 chosen animal/plant candidates [from zoo, neighborhood, etc.]
- Internet for answering questions not readily known through observation

METHODS

1. Select a group of 10-12 similar plants (e.g., different types of fruit, grass, or trees) or animals (e.g., snakes and lizards, primates, canids, or birds) to study.
2. Select 1-2 "outlier" candidate(s), that is known with confidence not to be in the same "kind" as the rest of the chosen candidates (e.g., if the canids—dogs, wolves, coyotes, etc.—are chosen, select a cat as an outlier).
3. Make a list of 50 yes or no questions that would help to highlight continuity **and** discontinuity between kinds, especially the selected group and the outlier(s) (e.g., for cat/dog comparison: Is the candidate an omnivore? Does the candidate give birth to live young (as opposed to an egg)? Does the candidate have over 40 teeth? Is the candidate a pack animal? Does the candidate bark? Does the candidate meow? Does the candidate have pointy ears? Does the candidate have a nose width-to-head width greater than X? Does the candidate have retractable claws? Does the candidate have a distinguishing sense of smell? Does the candidate have a notably protruding maw?; Other examples of questions distinguishing mammals from other life forms: Does the candidate have fur? Does the candidate have scales? Does the candidate have four legs? Does the candidate have lungs? Does the candidate have blood? Does the candidate have ears? Can the candidate grow to be over 3 feet tall from toe to head? Can the candidate's hair grow to be over two inches in length? Etc.).
4. Answer each of the questions for each of the selected candidates.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

1. Make a chart to illustrate how similar/different the candidates are to one another.
   - **Using a pencil**: on a Baraminology Chart (see example on next page), number and list all of your chosen species in both the column and row labeled "species," keeping the same species associated with the same number in both the row and column.

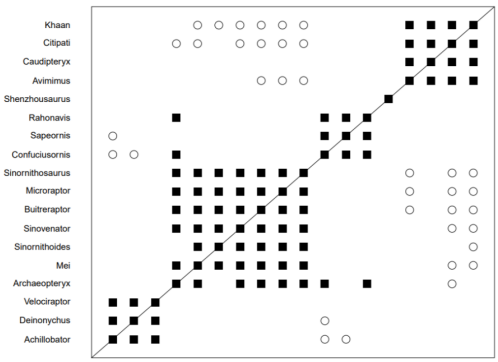
- For each candidate, count how many traits it shares in common with each of the other candidates (the number of "Y" answers shared **and** the number of "N" answers shared), and (using a pencil) write the number in the respective row/column. (Note that the number will appear twice in the chart, except along the diagonal from bottom left to top right. Note also that the bottom left box is a comparison of your first species with itself, which should be a perfect 50/50 match, as will be the case along the diagonal.)

Baraminology Chart 1

8)								
7)								
6)								
5)								
4)								
3)								
2)								
1)								
Species →	1)	2)	3)	4)	5)	6)	7)	8)

Sample Baraminology Chart

- Now select one of the candidates and sort the other candidates in order from highest to lowest in how similar they are to the selected candidate. After sorting the candidates, renumber them accordingly, starting with the selected candidate.
- Using a pencil, write the sorted candidates in order on a second Baraminology Chart, writing the candidates in the column and also in their corresponding row. You will start in the bottom left of the Chart, with the first species now representing the "chosen" candidate you made in the step above. The second species will be the species most similar to your chosen candidate, and so on.
- Using a pencil, once again, fill in the similarity numbers (calculated for the previous chart) that each candidate shares with each of the other candidates listed in the columns/rows (NOTE: again, the first box—bottom left—is a comparison between the first candidate and itself, which will be a perfect match—all 50 answers will match).
- Color the entry boxes according to similarity. For example:
  - If a candidate shares at least 75% of its characteristics with another candidate (i.e., 38 out of 50 questions), color the entry box brown.
  - If it shares 50-74%, color the entry box orange.



From: https://inhisimage.blog/2021/03/06/feathered-dinosaur-baraminology-pt-7/

  - If it shares 25-49%, color the entry box red.
  - If it shares 0-24%, color the entry box yellow.

2. Are distinct "groups" of candidates visible on the chart? If not, more specific questions may need to be considered. With a perfect set of questions, distinctions should be visible, helping to highlight the biblical "kind" being represented. [The groups of small black squares in the chart on the left gives a sample of the kind of groupings that should result. In the case illustrated, four distinct "kinds" resulted from the study.]

3. Using the information from your charts, draw a Creation "orchard" illustrating the candidates that were studied in this lab and how they might fit in the orchard. Note that each "tree" in the "orchard" represents a kind, while the branches of the tree represent varieties within the kind. Also note that some of your species may group incorrectly without more traits being considered, but draw your orchard based on the data in your chart.

4. What factors are we controlling in the "kind" determination that could affect whether we have, in actuality, determined true created kinds?

5. What factors are you controlling in your "kind" determination that could affect whether you have, in actuality, determined true created kinds?

6. What could you do to help make better distinctions in "kinds" and more accurate groupings?

7. How might we know with virtual certainty which animals are in the same kind? Did your questions take advantage of that knowledge? Were your results affected by your consideration of that knowledge?

8. Might some of the distinct groups you discovered be a single group in actuality? Might one of your groups actually be a group with multiple kinds within it? Why might those scenarios occur and what could you do to fix that problem?