

# Plant taxonomists: Reading a plant specimen label and recording plant information

Year accessioned ○ 1998-720\*1  
DAVA

Common name ○ "Common snowdrop"

Scientific name ○ *Galanthus nivalis*

Place of origin ○ Europe

AMARYLLIDACEAE ○ Plant family name



**Hint:** Scientists used to group plants only by their physical appearance (morphology). More recently, DNA sequencing has led to new discoveries in plant classification. We now know that plants that look very different may be closely related, while similar-looking plants might belong to entirely different families.

## Challenge:

Look for two plant species from the same family and record their scientific name and common name. Are they similar or different?

**Part I:** Look for two plant species from the same family. Record their species name and common name.

### Family name

### Plant A

### Plant B

## Key vocabulary:

species name, family name, common name, morphology, DNA, classification, taxonomy, plant description

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**Part II:** Record and describe both species. Are they similar or different? Why?

	Plant A	Plant B
<b>Drawing</b>		
<b>Location of origin</b>		
<b>Structure:</b> height, size, form		
<b>Leaf:</b> shape, size, texture (waxy, hairy, rough)		
<b>Stem/trunk:</b> texture, bark pattern		
<b>Flowers, fruits and seeds</b>		