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LESSON 1: Introduction and Classification

FACTS TO KNOW

1. **taxonomic classification** – a scientific way of grouping living or extinct organisms
2. **scientific name** – usually derived from Latin or Greek and consisting of two parts, the genus and species
3. **vertebrate** – animals with backbones, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Give one example of where birds can be found in mythology or culture.

2. Why do scientists use taxonomic classification?

3. What are the eight categories of taxonomy, from broadest to most specific?

4. What two names are given for each bird?

5. How do you recognize the scientific name?

6. Why is it important to know not only the common name, but the scientific name as well?

BIRD FACTS

1. Common Grackle

a. Scientific name: _____

b. Habitat: _____

c. Song: _____

d. Fun fact: _____

2. European Starling

a. Scientific name: _____

b. Habitat: _____

c. Song: _____

d. Fun fact: _____

ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss other mythologies or stories where birds have played a part.

DIAGRAM: Fill in the following blanks.

