

Looking for a way to engage with your learner more deeply through our videos? Use these guiding questions to dig a little deeper as you explore Field Museum collections and research at home!

# THE TAXONOMY OF CANDY



**Run time:** 6:31

**Suggested age level:** tweens and teens

**Essential question:** How do scientists classify the organisms or objects they study?

**Key vocabulary:**

**Taxonomy** – the classification of living and extinct organisms

**Evolutionary Relationship** – the relationship of a species to its ancestors

**Guiding questions:**

Humans love to organize things into groups to make things easier.

1. Move around your home and see what things your family has organized in different ways (such as books on a bookshelf or items in a cupboard). Why do you think your family chose to organize them the way they did?
2. Can you think of a wacky way to organize the food in your kitchen that might result in an unusual meal?

**Take action:**

Scientists classify organisms based on their evolutionary relationships using DNA and physical characteristics. Non-living things, like candy or toys, can be organized in many different ways depending on how you want to study them.

1. Find some candy or other foods in your house and organize them to make a taxonomy.
2. Organize them again, using a different type of grouping. See if someone else in your home can figure out your pattern.
3. Foods also evolve as chefs and cooks experiment with different ingredients. Research the history of hot dogs and see if you can make a taxonomy of them. Does your taxonomy indicate if they should qualify as a sandwich or not?