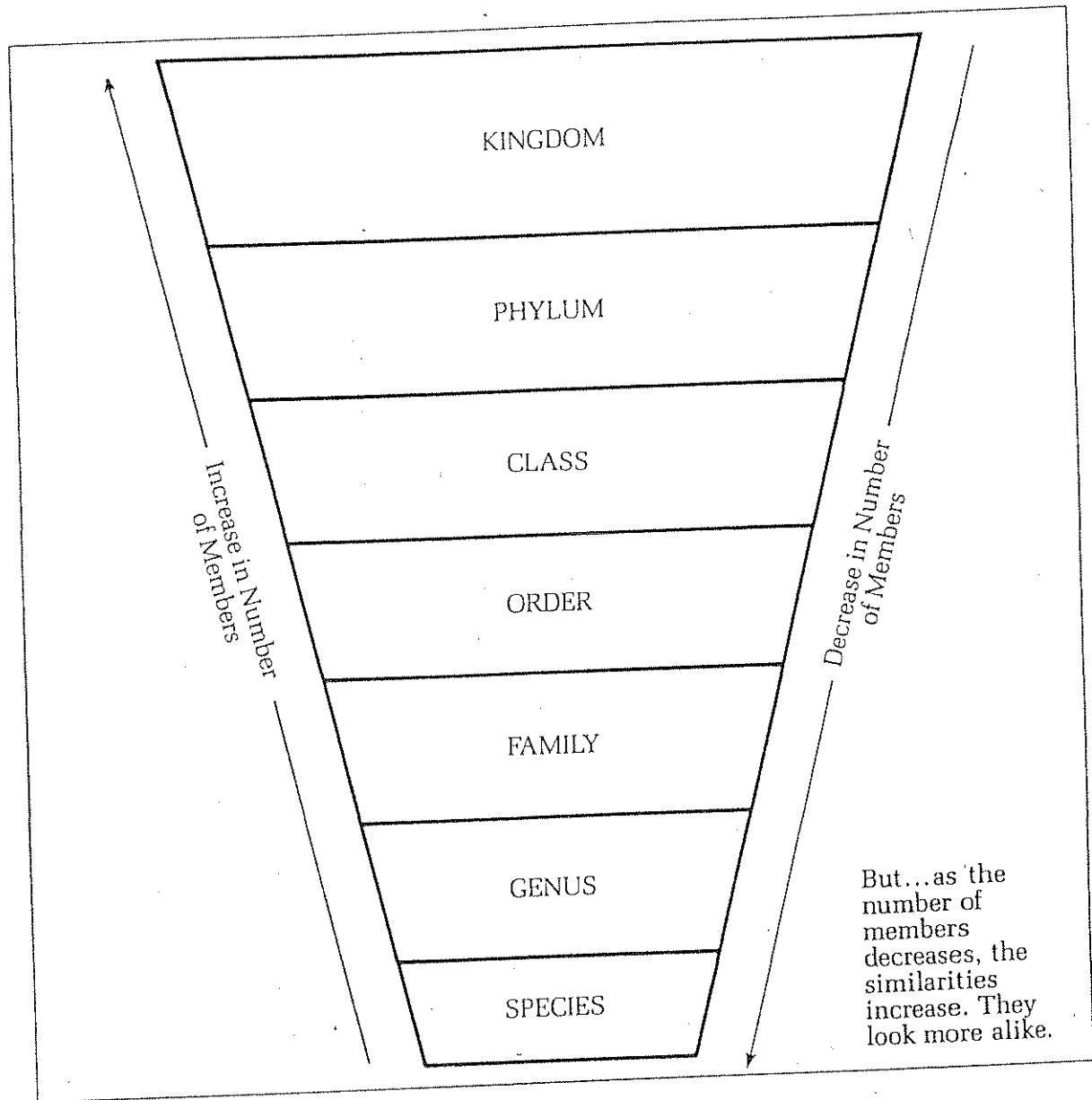Now let's answer the questions below. Use this example, and the full taxonomy pyramid on page 69 to help you.

CLASSIFICATION GROUP

SHARES KEY CHARACTERISTICS WITH THESE GROUPS

1. a) a member of a <u>class</u>

    _____

    _____

    b) a member of an <u>order</u>

    _____

    _____

    c) a member of a <u>family</u>

    _____

    _____

    d) a member of a <u>genus</u>

    _____

    _____

    e) a member of a <u>species</u>

    _____

    _____

2. Which are more similar . . .

    a) members of an <u>order</u> or members of a <u>family</u>? _____

    b) members of an <u>order</u> or members of a <u>phylum</u>? _____

    c) members of a <u>genus</u> or members of a <u>family</u>? _____

3. Which group members are most similar? _____

4. Which group members are least similar? _____

5. Which has more members . . .

    a) a <u>phylum</u> or a <u>family</u>? _____

    b) a <u>genus</u> or a <u>family</u>? _____

    c) a <u>class</u> or an <u>order</u>? _____

6. Which group has the most members? _____

7. Which group has fewer members . . .

    a) a <u>family</u> or a <u>genus</u>? _____

    b) an <u>order</u> or a <u>phylum</u>? _____

8. Which group has the fewest members? _____

THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Think of the classification system as an upside-down pyramid. The kingdom is the largest part. It has the most room. So, it can hold the greatest number of organisms—*all* plants, or *all* animals, or *all* protists.

As you move down the pyramid, each room gets smaller. It can hold fewer and fewer members; however, the members have more traits in common. They begin to look more alike.

KINGDOM

PHYLUM

CLASS

ORDER

FAMILY

GENUS

SPECIES

Increase in Number of Members

Decrease in Number of Members

But...as the number of members decreases, the similarities increase. They look more alike.

The *species* is the smallest room in the classification pyramid. It is only large enough for one kind of organism—only humans, or only elm trees, or only robins.

Members of a particular species are very similar . . . Are there any differences? Certainly! But they are mostly individual differences—like the differences between two people, or two elm trees, or two robins.