

# Introduction

Carl Linnaeus, the most famous Swedish scientist of all time, was born on 23 May 1707, so this year we are celebrating the tercentenary of his birth. The Linnaeus Schools Project is one of five Swedish national projects during this commemorative year and is supported by the Swedish National Agency for School Improvement. The jubilee is being celebrated in various ways in Swedish schools and the aim of the Linnaeus Schools Project is to support this work. The booklet you have in your hands was written to act as inspirational material for Swedish teachers, and the English translation makes it accessible for a wider audience.

Carl Linnaeus observed and described everything he saw in Nature, from the tiniest details to the most spectacular sights. These observations formed the core of his scientific work, which is still the basis of the way of naming and classifying living organisms.

The booklet *Linnaean Lessons* invites you to ponder on our own time and the future, using Linnaeus's life

and work and the time he lived in as starting points. And we hope that, like Linnaeus, you will make your own observations of Nature, which is all round us: of all life that exists although we do not always notice it, of plants and of insects – of everything, large and small, that gives experiences and creates a feeling for living things and a desire to preserve the environment and biological diversity.

Linnaeus himself meets us in a story at the beginning of each chapter. Then follow short and more detailed texts that are connected to the introduction in various ways. On the outside back cover you will find a map of Sweden that might be helpful.

The texts are based on Swedish situations but they provide many opportunities for starting to think about conditions in other countries as well. You can download the booklet *Linnaean Lessons* from the Schools Project's homepage [www.bioresurs.uu.se](http://www.bioresurs.uu.se).

*You are most welcome to make use of the Linnaean Lessons!*

The book you have in your hand

*The Teacher, page 5*  
*The 18<sup>th</sup> century, page 11*  
*The Scientist, page 25*  
*The Physician, page 39*  
*Journeys in Sweden, page 53*  
*The Apostles, page 69*  
*References, page 81*



[www.bioresurs.uu.se/skolprojektlinne](http://www.bioresurs.uu.se/skolprojektlinne)

