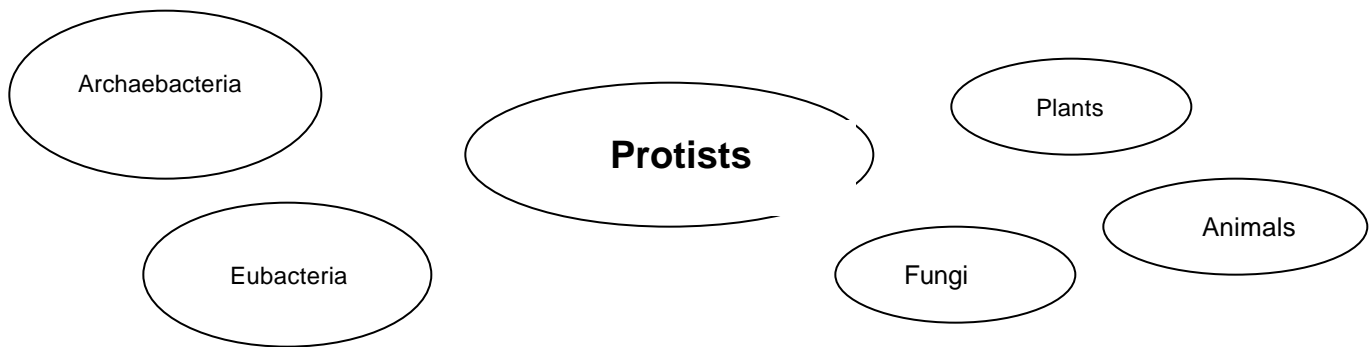


The Protist Kingdom...

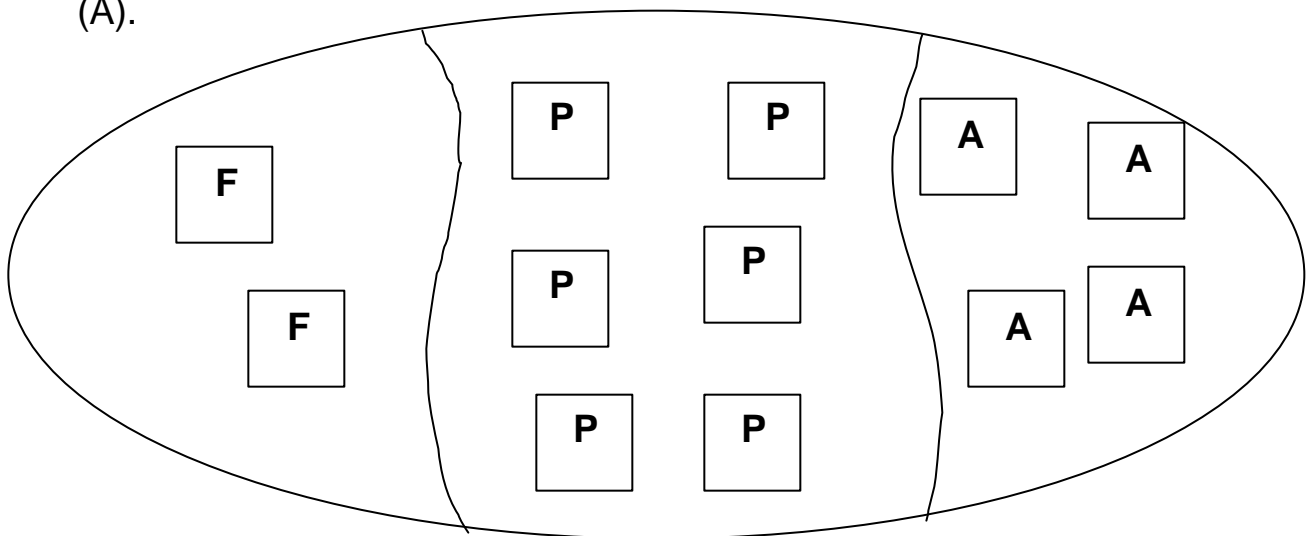
The Step Between

This kingdom is the “stepping stone” between the one-celled bacteria of the first two kingdoms and the next three kingdoms - the fungi, plant, and animal kingdoms.



2 + 6 + 4 = 12 Phyla in the Protist Kingdom

The organisms in the Protist Kingdom are divided into 12 phyla. Phyla is the Latin plural of phylum. You can think of the phyla in the Protist Kingdom as being divided into three big categories– the fungi-like molds (F), the plant-like algae (P), and the animal-like protozoans (A).



Two of the phyla in the Protist Kingdom are **fungi-like**. They are 1) slime molds and 2) water molds and mildews.

Six of the phyla in this kingdom are **plant-like**. They are algae. One of the phylum in this group is the red algae phylum. Its organisms are used in making toothpaste! Another phylum, Dinophyta, contains algae that produce red tide. These organisms turn the water red and can poison sea-life.

There are 4 phyla in the kingdom that are considered **animal-like**. One phylum contains a protozoan that causes African Sleeping Sickness. A member of another animal-like phyla causes malaria.

Have you ever heard of the word **symbiosis**? This word refers to living things that help each other. There are **symbiotic** relationships even in the Protist Kingdom! Many protists called Trichonympha live inside a termite's gut. They break down some of the material in the termite's wood meals. If they didn't do this, termites couldn't eat wood! We might like this but the termite wouldn't. Even the tiny protist is important in the food chain!

A Protist Detective:

Find out more about either African sleeping sickness or malaria. Tell how the disease affected the world and explain what was done about it.

OR

Find out about Red Tide. When does it occur? What do people do when Red Tide affects an area?