SCIENCE · ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION · GRADES 1–3

Animal Groups

Write fifteen animals under mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Write each animal under its group.

shark · turtle · bat · toad · goldfish · lizard · eagle · cow · snake · penguin · chicken · tuna · frog · salamander · dog

Mammals	Birds	Fish	Reptiles	Amphibians

Which group do you belong to? How do you know?

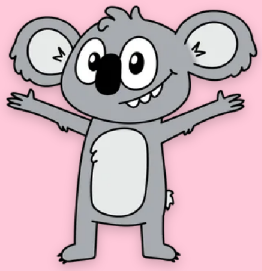
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Art © Kevin Coulston

SCIENCE · ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION · GRADES 2–4

Animal Group Clues

Match the five vertebrate groups to the clue that describes them, then name one animal from each group.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Draw a line from each group to its clue.

mammals ●	● have dry, scaly skin and lay eggs on land
birds ●	● have fur or hair and feed their babies milk
fish ●	● start life in water with gills, then grow lungs and legs
reptiles ●	● have feathers, wings and a beak, and lay eggs
amphibians ●	● live in water and breathe with gills all their lives

2. Name one animal from each group.

A mammal: _____

A bird: _____

A fish: _____

A reptile: _____

An amphibian: _____

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SCIENCE · ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION · GRADES 1–3

Parts of an Insect

Label the head, thorax, abdomen, antennae, legs and wings, then answer two insect questions.

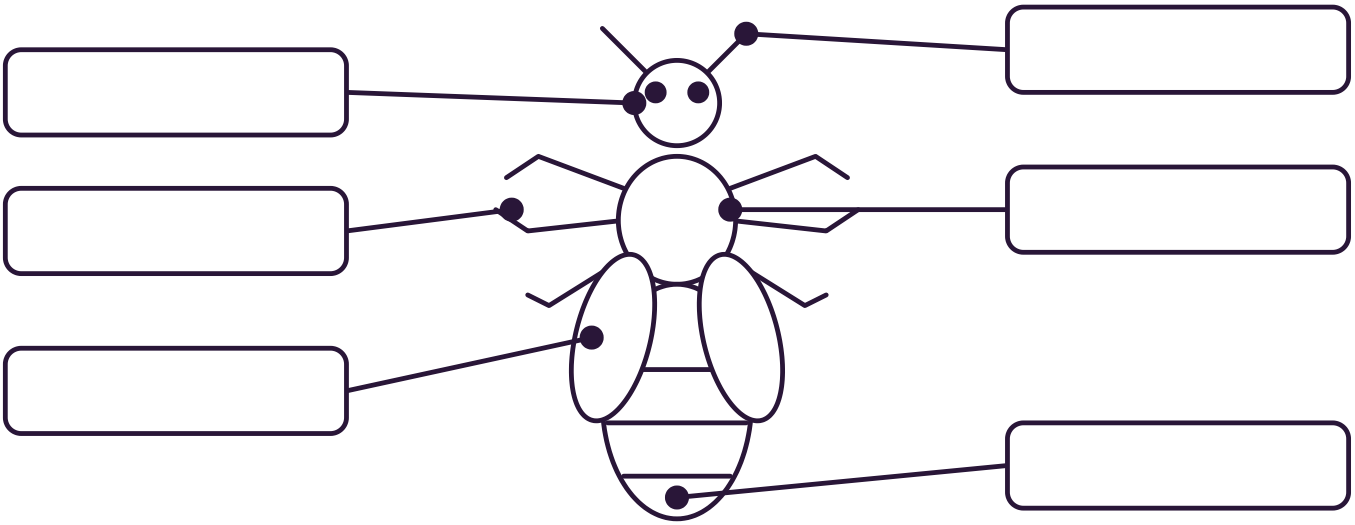
Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Word bank

head | thorax | abdomen | antennae | legs | wings

1. Label the parts of the insect.



2. Circle the answer.

How many legs does an insect have? (4) (6) (8)

How many main body parts does an insect have? (2) (3) (5)

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SCIENCE · ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION · GRADES 2–4

Vertebrate or Invertebrate?

Sort ten animals by whether they have a backbone, then check for your own.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

A **vertebrate** has a backbone. An **invertebrate** does not. Most animals on Earth are invertebrates!

1. Write each animal in the right column.

spider · snake · jellyfish · worm · snail · frog · butterfly · eagle · shark · cat

Vertebrates (backbone)	Invertebrates (no backbone)

2. Feel the middle of your back. What do you feel? Are you a vertebrate or an invertebrate?

_____

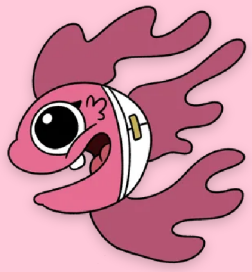
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SCIENCE · ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION · GRADES 3–4

Make a Classification Key

Pick four animals and write yes-or-no questions that sort them, one at a time, in a branching key.

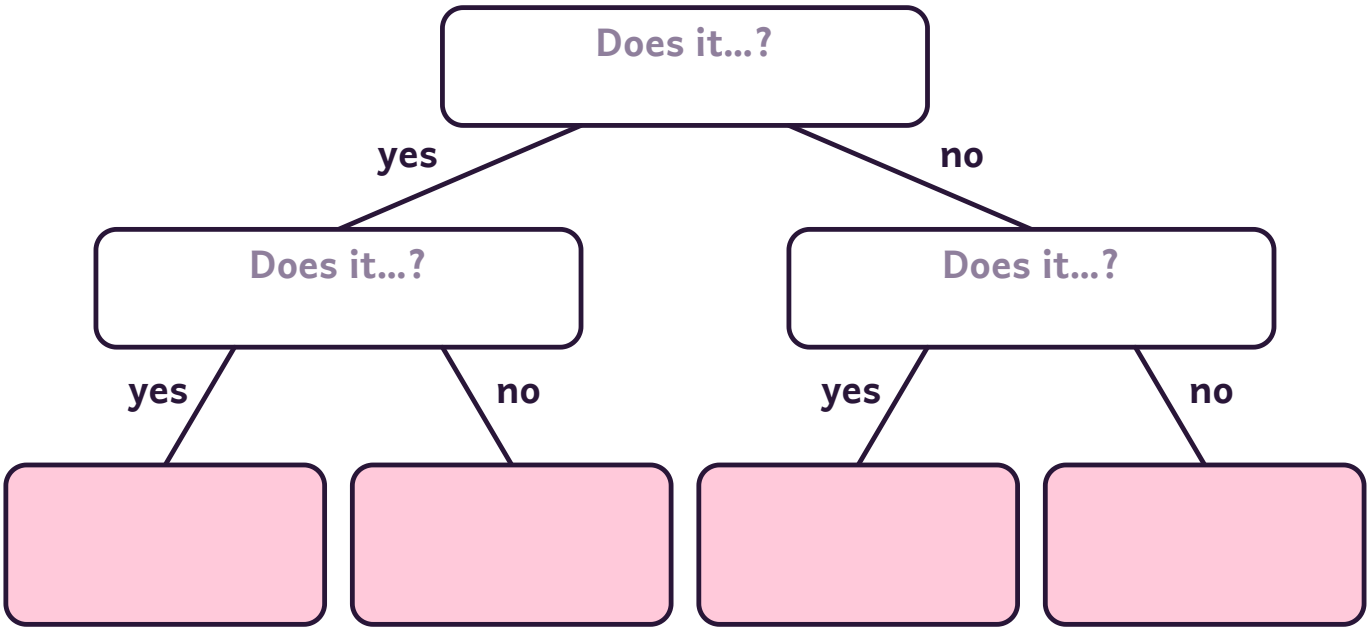


Name: _____ **Date:** _____

A **classification key** sorts things with yes-or-no questions. Pick four animals and write them in the bottom boxes. Then write a question in each box above that splits the animals below it, like "Does it have feathers?"

Animal 1 _____ **Animal 2** _____ **Animal 3** _____ **Animal 4** _____

Write a question in each box. Follow yes to the left and no to the right.



Try your key on a friend. Did they sort the animals the same way?

_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Animal Groups

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



Write each animal under its group.

shark · turtle · bat · toad · goldfish · lizard · eagle · cow · snake · penguin · chicken · tuna · frog · salamander · dog

Mammals	Birds	Fish	Reptiles	Amphibians
dog	eagle	shark	snake	frog
cow	penguin	goldfish	turtle	toad
bat	chicken	tuna	lizard	salamander

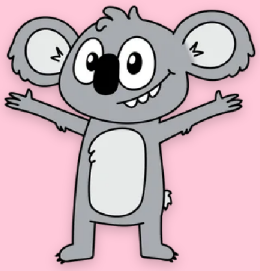
Which group do you belong to? How do you know?

Art © Kevin Coulston

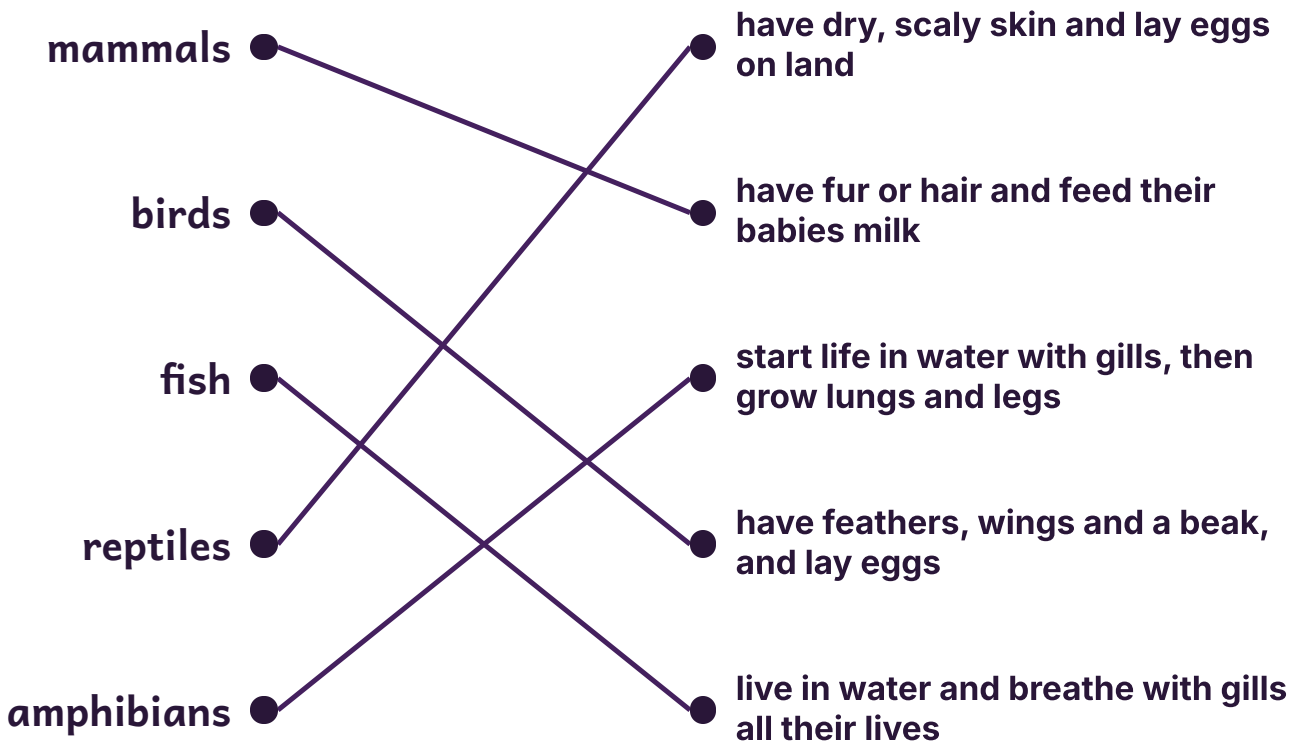
ANSWER KEY · ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION · GRADES 2–4

Answer Key: Animal Group Clues

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



1. Draw a line from each group to its clue.



2. Name one animal from each group.

A mammal: _____

A bird: _____

A fish: _____

A reptile: _____

An amphibian: _____

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Parts of an Insect

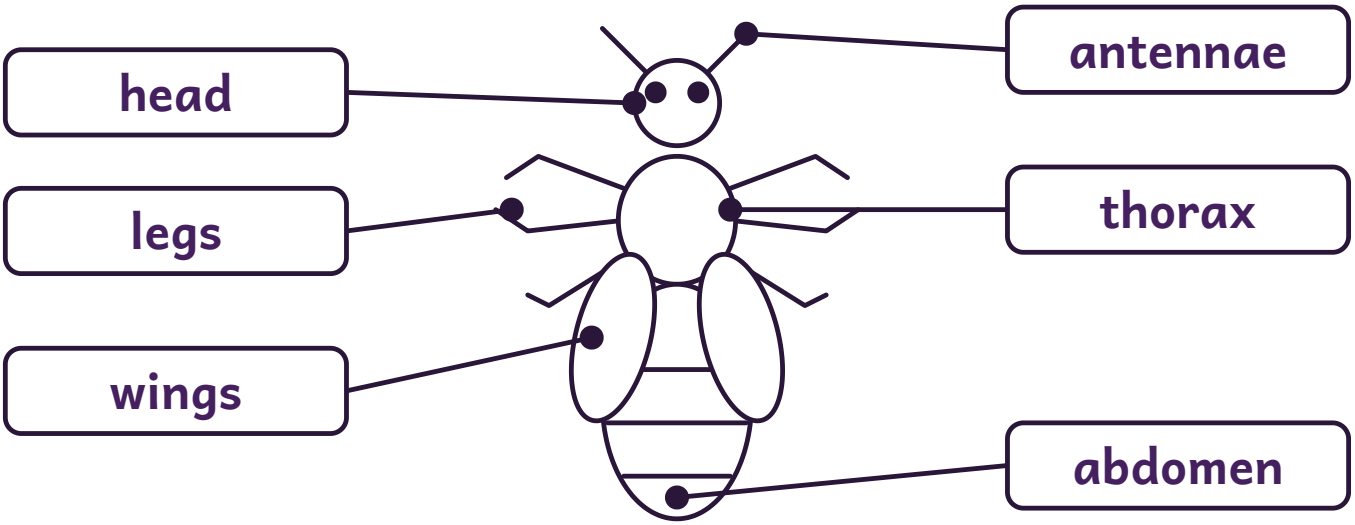
Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



Word bank

head · thorax · abdomen · antennae · legs · wings

1. Label the parts of the insect.



2. Circle the answer.

How many legs does an insect have? 4 **6** 8

How many main body parts does an insect have? 2 **3** 5

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION · GRADES 2–4

Answer Key: Vertebrate or Invertebrate?

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



A **vertebrate** has a backbone. An **invertebrate** does not. Most animals on Earth are invertebrates!

1. Write each animal in the right column.

spider · snake · jellyfish · worm · snail · frog · butterfly · eagle · shark · cat

Vertebrates (backbone)	Invertebrates (no backbone)
cat	worm
frog	snail
snake	butterfly
eagle	spider
shark	jellyfish

2. Feel the middle of your back. What do you feel? Are you a vertebrate or an invertebrate?

Art © Kevin Coulston