

Animal Classification

To help scientists study the huge variety of life that exists on Planet Earth, we group together animals and plants that have things in common. This homework is about learning what makes an animal or plant belong to a particular group.

Firstly, all animals are split into two large groups. These groups are INVERTEBRATES and VERTEBRATES.

Q1. What feature about an animal decides whether it is a vertebrate or an invertebrate?

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Vertebrate animals are then divided into 5 main groups. These groups are FISH, AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES, BIRDS and MAMMALS. To sort animals into these groups, they use the following characteristics.

- Have dry scaly skin.
- Have feathers and wings.
- Suckle their young.
- Breathe only through lungs.
- Have beaks and no teeth.
- Covered in scales.
- Covered in hair.
- Need water to breed.
- Have fins and gills.
- Breathe through moist skin and lungs.

Q2. Look at the list of characteristics above. There are two characteristics for each vertebrate group. Write them in the correct boxes. In each box, also write the name of two animals that belong to that group.	Amphibians	Birds
Fish	Reptiles	Mammals

Invertebrate animals are divided into smaller groups. The most important of these groups are ANNELIDS (segmented worms), MOLLUSCS, CRUSTACEANS, ARACHNIDS and INSECTS.

<p>Q3. Research facts about these five groups of invertebrate animals. What are the features that makes an animal part of these groups? Which animals belong to these groups? Write what you are able to find out in the boxes here.</p>	Annelids	Molluscs
Crustaceans	Arachnids	Insects

Some of the invertebrate groups can be grouped together into a larger group called ARTHROPODS.

Q4. What invertebrate groups come under the heading of Arthropods and what does the word Arthropod mean?

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