



Classify that Animal Pre-Visit Activities

The activities in this pre-visit packet have been designed to help you and your students prepare for your upcoming program at the St. Joseph County Parks. These activities will help students recognize different animal groups and their unique characteristics. Each activity will introduce your students to terms and concepts regarding animal classification. By completing these activities, students will have a better understanding of the activities they will participate in during the program. Of course, if you do not have time to do these activities in advance, you can use them as review activities to measure how much your students learned during the program.

Spelling Words and Terms

Review the following terms and concepts with students. Ask the students to write sentences with the words. Give a pop Spelling Quiz!

Insect: an animal with three body parts and six legs, e.g. an ant

Bird: a warm-blooded animal with its body covered in feathers, e.g. a robin

Egg: a round or oval object laid by a female animal, containing a growing baby animal

Fish: a swimming animal with scales on its body, which breathes with gills

Mammal: a warm-blooded animal with its body covered in fur, e.g. a rabbit

Nest: a home that an animal builds for itself or its babies

Amphibian: an animal with smooth, slimy skin, e.g. a frog

Spinneret: the part of a spider's body that produces silk

Spawn: fish or frog eggs

Reptile: a cold-blooded animal with scales on its body, which breathes with lungs

Habitat: the environment where an animal gets what it needs to live, e.g. a pond

Ecosystem: a community of plants and animals

Arachnid: an animal with two body parts and eight legs, e.g. a spider

Scales: small, thin, overlapping plates that protect the skin of fish and reptiles

Feathers: the soft body coverings that grow from birds' skin

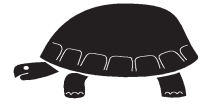
Fact versus Fiction

Below are various facts about animals. Decide whether the fact is true or false. If the fact is true draw a circle around it, if it is false place an X on it.



Insects have three body parts:
a head, a thorax and an
abdomen with **eight legs**
attached to the abdomen.

Snakes are reptiles. Other
reptiles include: lizards, turtles,
crocodiles and salamanders.



Daddy-long-legs eat insects,
dead wood and plants.



Fish are covered with scales
and have slime to protect their
skin.

Touching the skin of a toad
can give you
warts!

Insects contain high amounts
of protein and are eaten by
people in different cultures
around the world.

Bats like to fly
into our hair!



Mammals have the ability
to show facial expressions.

A rope of spider's silk one inch
thick would be stronger than a
one-inch-thick steel cable.



Bird bones are hollow.



1. Insects have three body parts: a head, a thorax and abdomen with eight legs attached to the abdomen. **False**
Insects have six legs and they are attached to the thorax.
2. Snakes are reptiles. Other reptiles include: lizards, turtles, crocodiles and salamanders. **False**
Snakes, lizards and crocodiles are reptiles. A salamander is classified as an amphibian. Some reptile characteristics: body is covered with scales, eggs are leathery and tough and hatch in late summer or fall.
3. Bats like to fly into our hair. **False**
Usually, if a bat appears flying around a person it is to eat the insects around them.
4. Daddy-long-legs eat insects and plants. **True**
Daddy-long-legs eat a variety of small plants and insects. They differ from spiders because spiders do not eat plants, only insects.
5. Birds have hollow bones. **True**
A bird's bone is hollow. This makes the bird light enough that it can fly.
6. Insects contain high amounts of protein and are eaten by people in different cultures around the world. **True**
The Witchetty Grub is found in Australia and is eaten raw by the Aborigines. In India and Indonesia, a paste of green weaver ants makes a zesty sauce. In Thailand and Laos, fried wasp is mixed with boiled rice, sugar and soy sauce.
7. Fish are covered with scales and have slime to protect their skin. **True**
Fish slime is a barrier to protect a fish from diseases and parasites.
8. Touching the skin of a toad can give you warts! **False**
The bumps on the back of a toad are poison glands, which are used to protect the toad. If an animal tries to eat a toad it will usually spit the toad back out and the toad can escape from the predator.
9. A rope of spider's silk one inch thick would be stronger than a one-inch-thick steel cable. **True**
A spider can spin eight different kinds of silk and spider's silk is as strong as steel.
10. Mammals have the ability to show facial expressions. **True**
Mammals have the ability to express different kinds of emotions, from smiling to sadness and fear to remorse.



What Do YOU Know About Animal Classes?



Complete each sentence about the different animal classes using the words below each blank.
Write the correct word in each blank and cross out the word that does not belong.

A _____ is an animal with fur. _____ are mammals. Mammals feed their
bird mammal Deer Frogs

babies _____.
nectar milk



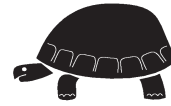
A _____ is an animal with _____. A _____
reptile bird fur feathers robin fox

is a bird. Birds lay _____.
babies eggs



A _____ is an animal with dry scales. _____ are reptiles.
reptile amphibian Toads Turtles

Reptiles have _____ and breathe air.
lungs gills



An _____ is an animal that is _____.
amphibian mamamal cold-blooded warm-blooded

_____ are amphibians. All amphibians take in air through their _____.
Frogs Rabbits skin scales

A _____ is an animal with wet scales. _____ are fish.
reptile fish Bluegills Crayfish

Fish have _____ and breathe under water.
lungs gills



An _____ is an animal that has _____ legs.
insect bird eight six

_____ are insects.
Bees Centipedes



A _____ is an animal with _____ legs. Spiders spin _____.
millipede spider eight six nests webs

What Animal am I?

Adapted from *Sharing Nature with Children* by Joseph Cornell

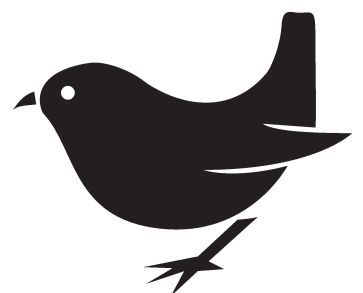
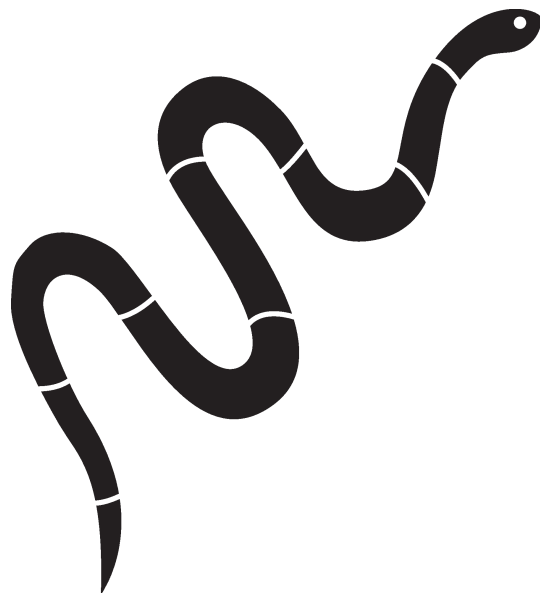
Overview: This activity can review all different animal groups.

Background: All animals are classified into particular groups based on their unique characteristics.

Materials needed: Animal pictures and clothes pins.

What to Do:

1. Pin a picture of an animal on the back of one of the students.
2. Don't show the student the picture.
3. Have the student turn around so the class can see the picture.
4. The student then asks questions to discover his/her animal identity. Example: Do I have feathers? Do I have scales? Do I swim? etc...
5. The class can answer only yes, no or maybe. Have fun guessing the animal!



All Kinds of Animals

Name: _____

Read the sentences below. Then look for the **BOLD** words in the word search.

A **mammal** is an animal with **fur**. **Rabbits** and **deer** are mammals. Mammals feed their babies **milk**.

A **bird** is an animal with **feathers**. **Robins** and **ducks** are birds. Birds lay **eggs**.

A **reptile** is an animal with dry **scales**. **Turtles** and **snakes** are reptiles. Reptiles have **lungs** and breathe air.

An **amphibian** is an animal with **smooth** skin. **Frogs** and **toads** are amphibians. Amphibians are **slimy**.

A **fish** is an animal with wet scales. **Bluegills** and **bass** are fish. Fish have gills and breathe under **water**.

An **insect** is an animal with no **backbone**. **Butterflies** and **bees** are insects. Insects have six **legs**.

A **spider** is an animal with eight legs, like a **jumping** spider or a **wolf** spider. Spiders spin **webs**.

J V O D S C A L E S R L N H W
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