

Types of Animals

Scientists sort all the types of animals that live on Earth into groups, according to their similarities. In the Kingdom of Animalia, there are many groups (phyla), and the children will learn about the names and organization as they get older. These are some of the groups of animals that capture the interest and imagination of young children.

1. Invertebrates (animals without a backbone)

- a. Echinoderms, such as starfish
- b. Annelids, such as earthworms
- c. Mollusks, such as octopus
- d. Arthropods
 - i. Crustaceans, such as crabs
 - ii. Arachnids, such as spiders
 - iii. Insects

2. Vertebrates (animals with a backbone)

- a. Chordates
 - i. Fish
 - ii. Amphibians, such as frogs
 - iii. Reptiles, such as crocodiles
 - iv. Birds
 - v. Mammals
 - 1. Marsupials, such as kangaroos
 - 2. Primates, such as gorillas
 - 3. Rodents, such as mice
 - 4. Cetaceans, such as whales
 - 5. Carnivores, such as wolves

These animals are invertebrates. They do not have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Echinodermata**.

Echinoderms have arms or spines that radiate from the center of their body. The central body contains their organs, and their mouth for feeding. Common echinoderms include the sea star, sea urchin, sand dollar and sea cucumber.



sea urchin



sea star

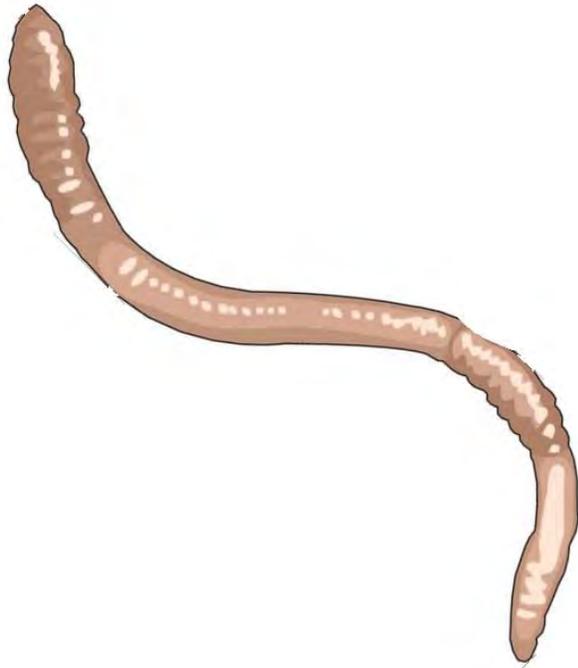


sand dollar



sea cucumber

These animals are invertebrates. They do not have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Annelida**. Annelids have bodies that are divided into segments. They have very well-developed internal organs. One common characteristic of annelids is that they don't have any limbs. Some common annelids are earthworms and leeches.



earthworm



leech



roundworm



bristle worm

These animals are invertebrates. They do not have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Mollusca** . Mollusks have a soft, skin-like organ covered with a hard outside shell. Some mollusks live on land, such as the snail and slug. Other mollusks live in water, such as the oyster, mussel, clam, squid and octopus.



octopus



snail



squid



sea snail shell

These animals are invertebrates. They do not have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Arthropoda** and the sub-group **Crustacean**. Crustaceans have a hard, external shell which protects their body. Crustaceans have a head and abdomen. Crustaceans live mostly in the ocean or other waters. Most commonly known crustaceans are the crab, lobster and barnacle.



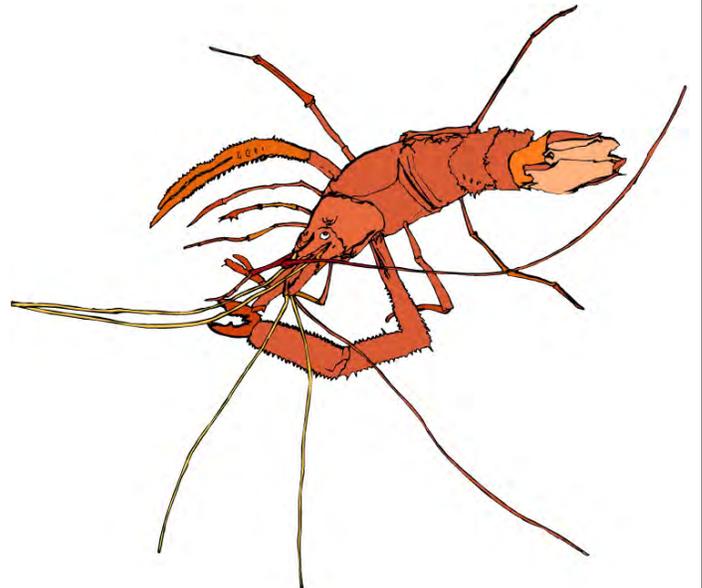
crab



lobster



shrimp



crayfish

These animals are invertebrates. They do not have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Arthropoda** and the sub-group **Arachnid**. Arachnids have a hard exoskeleton and jointed appendages for walking. Most arachnids have 4 pairs of legs. Common arachnids are spiders, scorpions, ticks and mites.



scorpion



spider



tick



harvestman

These animals are invertebrates. They do not have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Arthropoda** and the sub-group **Insects** . Insects have an exoskeleton that covers their entire body. An insect's body consists of 3 parts: the head, thorax and abdomen. Common insects include the fly, beetle, butterfly, moth, dragonfly, bee, wasp and praying mantis.



butterfly



beetle

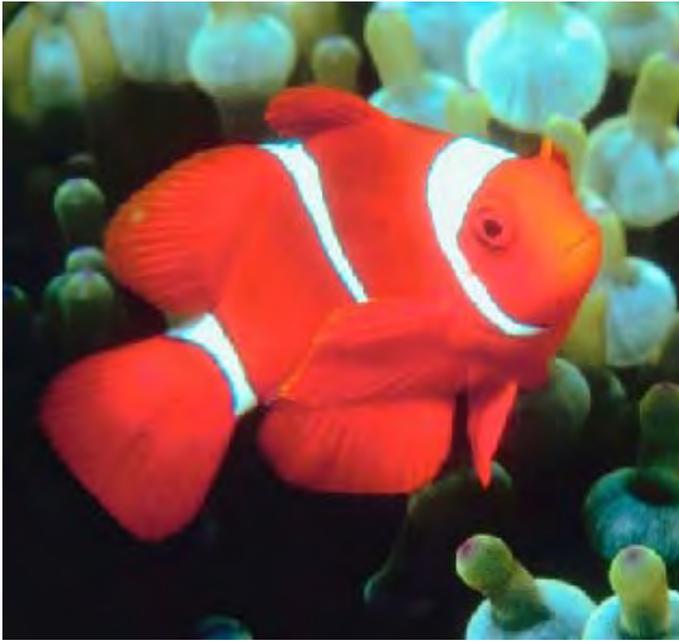


ladybug



bee

These animals are vertebrates. They have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Chordata**, and the sub group **Fish**. Fish breathe through gills. Gills perform the gas exchange between the water and the fish's blood. They allow the fish to breathe oxygen in the water. Fish swim using a tail fin. Many fish eat plants, while others such as the shark, eat other fish.



clown fish



trout



goldfish



angel fish

These animals are vertebrates. They have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Chordata**, and the sub group **Amphibians**. Amphibians lay their eggs in water, and young amphibians tend to resemble small fish. Most amphibians can both walk and swim in water. Amphibians body temperature changes with its environment. Common amphibians are frogs and salamanders



frog



toad



salamander



newt

These animals are vertebrates. They have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Chordata**, and the sub group **Reptilia**. Reptiles are air-breathing animals, although many live not only on land but in water. The most noticeable feature of reptiles is the scales that cover their body. The majority of reptiles lay eggs to give birth to their young. The most common reptiles include alligators, crocodiles, lizards, snakes, tortoises and turtles.



snake



crocodile



iguana



turtle

These animals are vertebrates. They have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Chordata**, and the sub-group **Birds**. Birds have 3 major differentiating characteristics: wings for flight, feathers, and a beak rather than teeth. Birds have adapted their vertebrate skeleton for flight. Their bones and skull are very thin, making their bodies extremely light.



owl



swan



crow



flamingo

These animals are vertebrates. They have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Chordata**, and the sub-group **Mammals/Marsupials**. Marsupials have an abdominal pouch to carry their young. The baby animal climbs from the mother's birth canal to her pouch. Here the baby marsupial continues to develop for weeks, or even months, depending on the species.



koala



kangaroo



wombat



Tasmanian devil

These animals are vertebrates. They have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Chordata**, and the sub-group **Mammals/Primates**. Primates have well developed hands and feet, with fingers and toes. Their opposable thumb makes it easy for them to grab things. Primates also have large, highly developed brains. Their intelligence allows them to control and manipulate their environment.



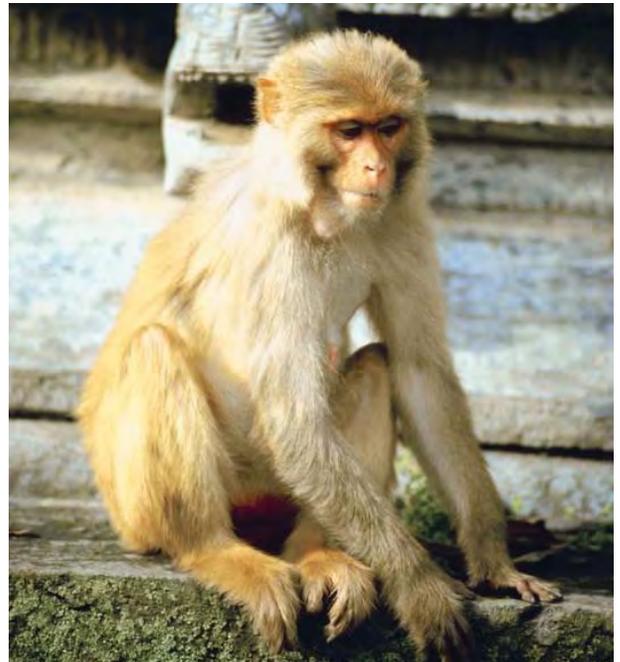
gorilla



chimpanzee



orangutan



monkey

These animals are vertebrates. They have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Chordata**, and the sub-group **Mammals/Rodents**. Rodents have large incisor teeth. The two long pairs of incisors are used like chisels to gnaw on hard foods like nuts and wood. These incisors must grow continuously since they are worn down by gnawing. Some common rodents are mice, rats and beavers.



rat



squirrel



prairie dogs



beaver

These animals are vertebrates. They have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Chordata**, and the sub-group **Mammals/Cetaceans**. Cetaceans cannot breathe under water. They must come to the surface to breathe air. They breathe through a blowhole, or nostrils, on the top of their head. Whales and dolphins also have a highly developed brain



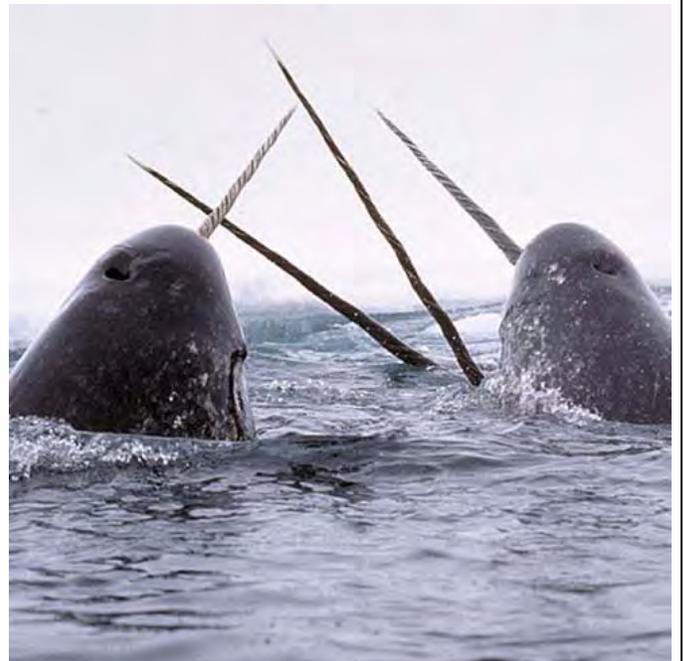
orca whale



dolphin



blue whale

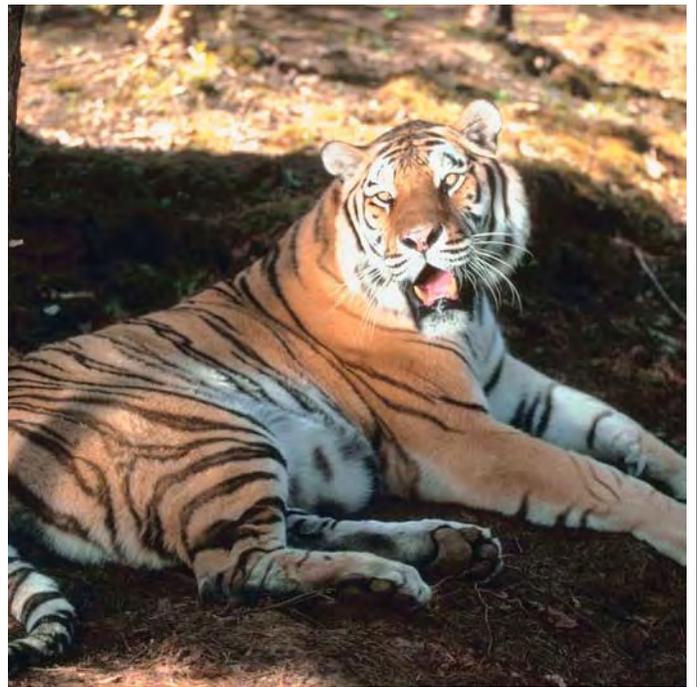


narwhal

These animals are vertebrates. They have a backbone. They belong to the phylum **Chordata**, and the sub-group **Mammals/Carnivores**. Most carnivores live on land. They usually have large sharp claws, and strong teeth. Most carnivores are predators, but despite their name, most eat both meat and plants. Some carnivores, such as dogs and cats, are domesticated, and live well with people.



bear



tiger



wolf



raccoon