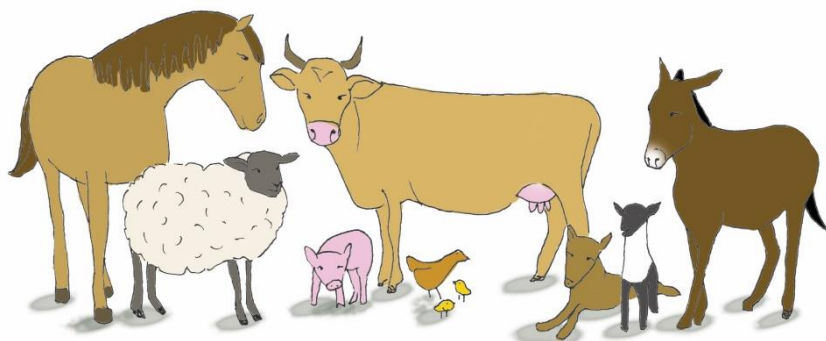


Introduction

There are many different types of animals in the animal kingdom, in fact scientists predict there are **approximately 7.77 million species** across the world altogether. They can be split up into different groups so that they can be **identified** or **classified** more easily.

Some animals are **domestic** animals. These are animals which have been **domesticated** by humans and so are tame and live close to humans. Some of these animals have been tamed to help us. Examples of these types of animals are cats and dogs as well as sheep and cows.

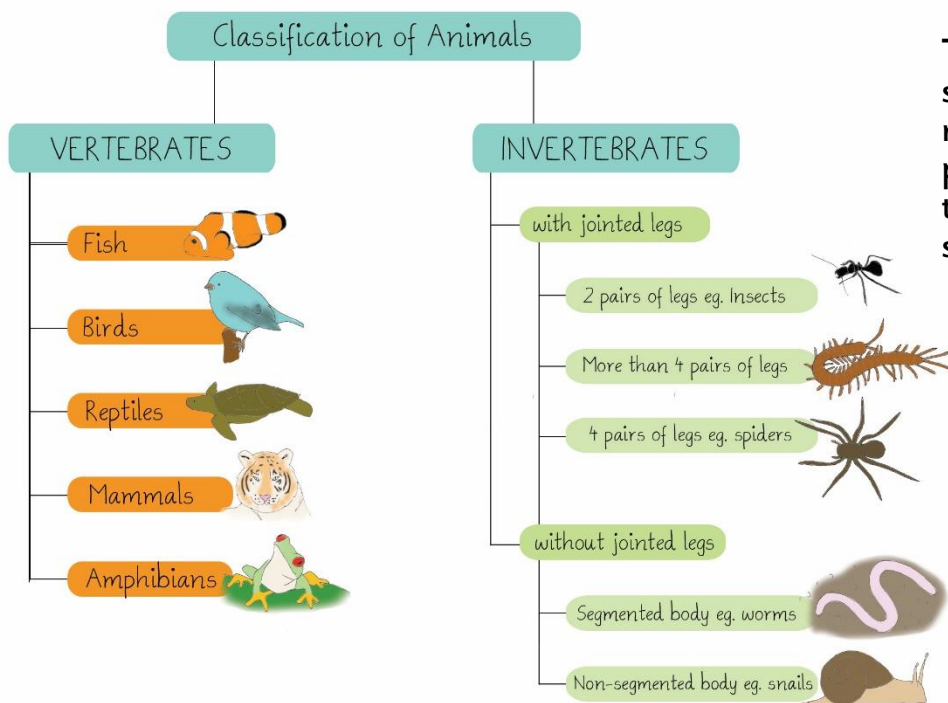


Other animals are known as wild animals. These animals are those which are not domesticated and live in their natural habitat.

How do we classify animals?

Animals are grouped together by their **characteristics** or their features. We generally follow a chart that helps us identify how to group a new species. Firstly we need to decide if an animal is a **vertebrate** or an **invertebrate**. A vertebrate has a backbone and an invertebrate does not. When we have decided this we can follow the chart to identify which group the animal is in.

When a new species is found it is given a common name and a scientific name. The common name is the name we tend to know the animal by, whereas, the scientific name is created so that each species has an **accurate** name for scientific use world wide. For example, when studying a bluegill sunfish in one country, it may have a different common name in another country, but it always has the same scientific name of *Lepomis macrochirus* (*le-pom-is ma-cro-tris*).



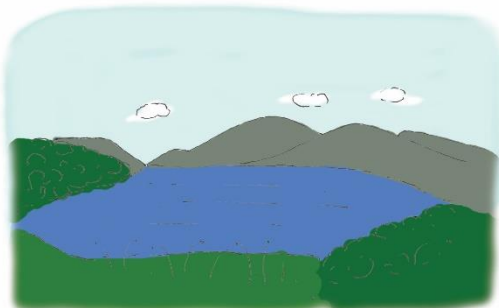
This means that when scientists want to compare research from different places, they can ensure that they are talking about the same species.

Habitats

A habitat or **biome** is a place where an animal lives. There are many different types of habitats across the world and they vary from country to country. Biomes are often defined by the type of plants that live there, the **climate** and the geography of the area. Habitats can be on land or in water. There are three main groups of habitats; **terrestrial** (on land), freshwater and **marine**.

Marine Habitats

Marine habitats are ocean habitats and around 71% of the world is covered by oceans meaning that this is the biggest group of habitats. Even though the oldest species of animals are found in the seas and oceans, most of this habitat is unexplored due to the depth of the oceans and seas we have. Marine habitats include rock pools, sea beds, shallow seas, **estuaries** and deep oceans.



Freshwater Habitats

This is the smallest group of habitats that can be found. Only a tiny percentage of the water on Earth is freshwater. Freshwater habitats come in the form of lakes and ponds, rivers and streams, bogs, swamps and **wetlands**.

Terrestrial Habitats

Terrestrial habitats are land habitats. There are many different types of land habitats across the world. Some of these types include anywhere from parklands, deserts, **mountainous regions**, forests and farmland **amongst** others.



Ecosystems

In each of these habitats there will be thousands of species of animals and plants all living together. We call this an ecosystem. Some habitats have a balanced ecosystem which means that all the animals and plants interact well with the non-living things such as air, water and mineral soil, and all the animals and plants can live in **harmony**. However there are too many ecosystems that are no longer balanced because of **pollution** and human **population** which are **disrupting** the **harmonious** balance.

Glossary

biome – a community of plants and animals

common name – a more familiar name given to a plant or animal

invertebrate – an animal that has no backbone, such as a worm or starfish

marine – habitats that involve water such as oceans and seas

scientific name – a name given to only one species, a scientific name is known across the world for a particular species

terrestrial – habitats on land

vertebrate – animal that has a backbone, vertebrate groups include mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians

By Laura Baggley

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Animals and Their Habitats – 4c – Text

Animals and Their Habitats – Oral Teacher Questions

What is the text about? What is its purpose? (AF2/AF6) **Animals, how we classify them and the different types of habitats they can be found in.**

Does the layout help the reader? If so, how? (AF4) **Paragraphs help to break up the information, pictures and diagrams to illustrate and headings to guide the reader to the relevant parts.**

Why are the headings underlined? (AF5) **To make it easier to find the information you are looking for. It prompts to tell you what the paragraphs below are about.**

What are the pictures for? What are their purpose? (AF4) **To illustrate the writing, gives further information, to demonstrate what is being talked about.**

Is it true or false that a fish is classed as an invertebrate? How do you know? (AF2/AF3) **False, a fish has a backbone and is therefore a vertebrate. Children can use the diagram to help them decide.**

Could the information be presented in a more effective way? How? (AF6) **Gain children's ideas on how the layout could be improved.**

Why are the words *Lepomis macrochirus* written in italics in the text? (AF4/AF7) **We use italics to distinguish certain words from others. Italics is used in this text to show the scientific name of the animal rather than the common name.**

What is the purpose of writing (le-pom-is ma-cro-tris) after the words *Lepomis macrochirus* in the text? (AF4/AF7) **To help the reader pronounce the word. Scientific names for animals can be tricky to pronounce because they are quite often based on the old language Latin.**

Why is there a glossary in the text? What is it useful for? Do you notice anything special about the glossary? (AF4) **The glossary gives meanings to some of the technical words found in the text. It is useful when you come across an unknown word in an information text. The glossary is in alphabetical order.**

What groups do scientists use to identify the type of habitat and animal lives in? (AF2/AF3) **3 main groups; terrestrial (land), freshwater and marine habitats.**

What can you use in the text to tell you what groups of animals there are? (AF2/AF3) **Use the chart on page one to show the different groups; fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and all others are classed as invertebrates.**

What is the text about? What is its purpose? (AF2/AF6)

Does the layout help the reader? If so, how? (AF4)

Why are the headings underlined? (AF5)

What are the pictures for? What are their purpose? (AF4)

Is it true or false that a fish is classed as an invertebrate? How do you know? (AF2/AF3)

Could the information be presented in a more effective way? How? (AF6)

Why are the words *Lepomis macrochirus* written in italics in the text? (AF4/AF7)

What is the purpose of writing *(le-pom-is ma-cro-tris)* after the words *Lepomis macrochirus* in the text? (AF4/AF7)

Why is there a glossary in the text? What is it useful for? Do you notice anything special about the glossary? (AF4)

What groups do scientists use to identify the type of habitat and animal lives in? (AF2/AF3)

What can you use in the text to tell you what groups of animals there are? (AF2/AF3)

Animals and Their Habitats – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of the words. (AF2)

habitats _____

approximately _____

species _____

classified _____

domestic _____

domesticated _____

characteristics _____

vertebrate _____

invertebrate _____

accurate _____

biome _____

climate _____

terrestrial _____

marine _____

estuaries _____

wetlands _____

mountainous regions _____

amongst _____

ecosystems _____

harmony _____

pollution _____

population _____

disrupting _____

harmonious _____

Write the meaning of each of the words. (AF2)

- habitats – the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism
- approximately – showed to use that something is almost but not completely correct
- species – a group of living organisms
- classified – arranged in groups
- domestic – tame and kept by humans
- domesticated – tame and kept as a pet or on a farm
- characteristics – a feature or quality belonging to a person or thing
- vertebrate – an animal that has a backbone or spinal column
- invertebrate – an animal that does not have a backbone or spinal column
- accurate – correct and exact
- biome – a community of plants and animals
- climate – the type of weather conditions in an area, e.g. hot climate or cold climate
- terrestrial – on dry land
- marine – relating to or found in the sea/ocean
- estuary – the tidal mouth of a river where it meets the sea
- wetlands – land consisting of marshes or swamps; saturated land
- mountainous regions – areas that have many mountains
- amongst – a member of a set of things
- ecosystem – a community of living things that interact with their environment
- harmony – to be in agreement or peace
- pollution – something that can harm the environment often caused by humans
- human population – the inhabitants of a particular place
- disrupting – cause damage to
- harmonious – to be in harmony, agreement or peace

Task A

Rewrite the following sentences using a synonym for the purple word in each case. Make sure you use a different word each time.

Scientists predict there are **approximately** 7.77 million species across the world altogether.

Each species has an **accurate** name for scientific use world wide.

In an ecosystem all the animals and plants live in **harmony**.

Habitats are often decided based on the **climate**.

Task B

Choose the correct word from the list below to fit in the following sentences.

Firstly we need to decide if an animal is a _____ or an invertebrate.

Freshwater habitats come in the form of lakes and ponds, rivers and streams, bogs, swamps and _____.

Some habitats have a balanced _____ which means that all the animals and plants interact well.

Marine habitats include rock pools, sea beds, shallow seas, _____ and deep oceans.

Animals are grouped together by their _____ or their features.

They can be split up into different groups so that they can be _____ more easily.

ecosystem

wetlands

characteristics

vertebrate

classified

estuaries

Task A

Rewrite the following sentences using a synonym for the purple word in each case. Make sure you use a different word each time.

Scientists predict there are **approximately** 7.77 million species across the world altogether.

Scientists predict there are **about/just about/roughly** 7.77 million species across the world altogether.

Each species has an **accurate** name for scientific use world wide.

Each species has an **exact/correct/precise** name for scientific use world wide.

In an ecosystem all the animals and plants live in **harmony**.

In an ecosystem all the animals and plants live in **peace/agreement**.

Habitats are often decided based on the **climate**.

Habitats are often decided based on the **type of weather/temperature**.

Task B

Choose the correct word from the list below to fit in the following sentences.

Firstly we need to decide if an animal is a **vertebrate** or an invertebrate.

Freshwater habitats come in the form of lakes and ponds, rivers and streams, bogs, swamps and **wetlands**.

Some habitats have a balanced **ecosystem** which means that all the animals and plants interact well.

Marine habitats include rock pools, sea beds, shallow seas, **estuaries** and deep oceans.

Animals are grouped together by their **characteristics** or their features.

They can be split up into different groups so that they can be **classified** more easily.

ecosystem

wetlands

characteristics

vertebrate

classified

estuaries

classroomsecrets.com

Animals and Their Habitats – 4c – Vocab **ANSWERS**

Animals and Their Habitats – SPAG

Connectives

Choose the best connective from the box below to complete the sentences.

The common name is the name we tend to know the animal by, _____, the scientific name is created so that each species has an accurate name.

The oldest species of animals can be found in the oceans _____ this habitat is not yet fully explored.

There are too many ecosystems that are no longer balanced _____ of pollution and human population.

although	and	whereas	because
----------	-----	---------	---------

Sentences

In the space write the correct verb from the list below.

Animals are _____ together by their characteristics or features.

We were _____ animals by their characteristics or features.

to group	grouped	grouping
----------	---------	----------

Nouns and Verbs

In the table below tick put a tick in each row to show whether the word is a verb or a noun.

	noun	verb
to predict		
fish		
habitat		
to follow		

Animals and Their Habitats – SPAG

Connectives

Choose the best connective from the box below to complete the sentences.

The common name is the name we tend to know the animal by, **whereas**, the scientific name is created so that each species has an accurate name.

The oldest species of animals can be found in the oceans **although** this habitat is not yet fully explored.

There are too many ecosystems that are no longer balanced **because** of pollution and human population.

although	and	whereas	because
----------	-----	---------	---------

Sentences

In the space write the correct verb from the list below.

Animals are **grouped** together by their characteristics or features.

We were **grouping** animals by their characteristics or features.

to group	grouped	grouping
----------	---------	----------

Nouns and Verbs

In the table below tick put a tick in each row to show whether the word is a verb or a noun.

	noun	verb
to predict		✓
fish	✓	
habitat	✓	
to follow		✓