



# Classify Animals

*What are vertebrates?*

## Introduction

The term wildlife includes all animals that live in the natural environment but not under the direct control of humans. Vertebrates are animals with a backbone. A backbone consists of a series of bones that connects the animal's skull to its pelvis. Each bone is called a vertebra.

Vertebrates are divided into classes. The classes of animals you will learn about are mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. In this activity you will learn the major differences between them.

Animals in the same class share traits. Here are some examples of unique traits of vertebrates:

- Mammals have hair
- Birds have feathers
- Fish have fins
- Reptiles have scales
- Amphibians can breathe through their skin

## Supplies

- Pencil & Paper

## Instructions

- 1) Read the information about vertebrate classes in the introduction.
- 2) Complete the vertebrate classes table by writing the vertebrate class for the pictures shown in each row.

## Discussion

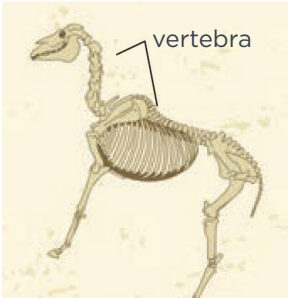
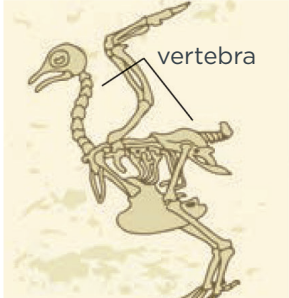



**Share What Happened:** What did you learn in this activity? Can you name the five classes of vertebrates you studied?

**Apply:** How could being able to talk about a wildlife group be useful?

**Generalize to Your Life:** What other groupings can you think of?



## BACKBONES THAT ARE MADE OF VERTEBRA

Mammal	Bird	Fish	Amphibian	Reptile
				

## My Notes & Ideas

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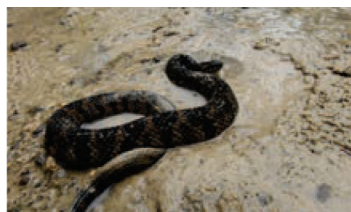

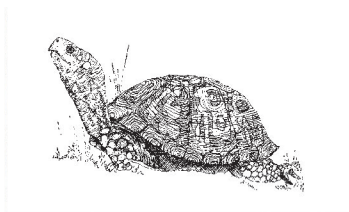






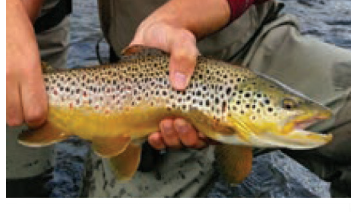

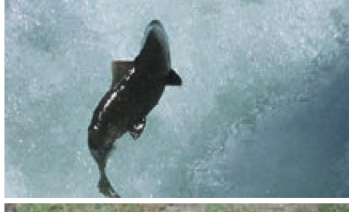



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Write the name of each vertebrate class in the last column for the pictures shown in each row.

Study the wildlife pictures in the table. Look for things that are alike and things that are different. Answer the questions based on what you already know and what you see in the pictures.

What traits do birds share?

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What traits do fish share?

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What traits do mammals share?

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What traits do reptiles share?

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What traits do amphibians share?

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## Did You Know?

Amphibians and reptiles are often studied together in a group called herpetiles. Herpetology is the study of amphibians (including frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts) and reptiles (including snakes, lizards, turtles, tortoises, and crocodiles).

To go deeper, find the full curriculum at [Shop4-H.org/Wild](https://Shop4-H.org/Wild)

