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. 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.

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

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

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.

Answers on the following page.
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 babies _______________.

bird   mammal
Deer   Frogs
nectar  milk

A __________________________ is an animal with __________________________. A ________________________ is a bird. Birds lay _______________.

reptile  bird  fur  feathers  robin  fox
babies   eggs

A _____________________________ is an animal with dry scales. ______________________ are reptiles. Reptiles have ________________ and breathe air.

reptile  amphibian  Toads  Turtles
lungs  gills

An amphibian is an animal that is _______________________________________. ________________________ are amphibians. All amphibians take in air through their ________________.

cold-blooded  warm-blooded
Frogs  Rabbits  skin  scales

An ___________________________ is an animal with ___________________________ legs. ________________________ are insects.

insect  bird  eight  six
Bees  Centipedes

A _____________________ is an animal with ________________ legs. Spiders spin _______________.

millipede  spider  eight  six  nests  webs

Answers on the following page.
What Do YOU Know About Animal Classes? Answers

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

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

A **bird** is an animal with **feathers**. A *robin* is a bird. Birds lay **eggs**.

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

An **amphibian** is an animal that is cold-blooded. *Frogs* are amphibians. All amphibians take in air through their skin.

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

An **insect** is an animal that has six **legs**. *Bees* are insects.

A **spider** is an animal with eight legs. Spiders spin **webs**.

J    V    O    D    S    C    A    L    E    S    R    L    N    H    W
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Z    E    N    B    S    S    S    D    P    P    X    M    I    I    T
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H    N    V    P    E    L    R    E    Y    U    N    L    G    R    S
O    Z    T    U    M    F    I    L    E    S    B    E    N    U    N
S    E    L    T    R    U    T    M    E    S    F    G    U    F    Z
B    B    B    A    S    S    J    C    Y    W    X    S    L    D    K
T    O    A    D    S    W    T    R    E    D    I    P    S    Y    Y
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!