

Classify that Animal Pre-Visit Activities



The activities included in your pre-visit packet have been designed to help you and your students prepare for your upcoming program at the St. Joseph County Parks. The activities are designed to help students recognize different animal groups and their unique characteristics. Each activity will introduce your students to terms and concepts regarding animal classification. In 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 use these activities as pre-activities, you can also use them as post activities, to measure how much your students learned during the program.

Spelling Words and Terms

Review the following terms and concepts with students. Give a pop Spelling Quiz!

insect	bird	eggs
fish	mammal	nest
amphibian	spinneret	spawn
reptile	habitat	ecosystem
arachnid	scales	feathers

Bonus Spelling Words: metamorphosis, exoskeleton, migration, hibernation, camouflage

Extra Activity: Practice using the words by writing them in a sentence.

Example: The **bird** built a **nest**.

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.

How 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!

Classify that Animal Fact versus Fiction! Answers

Name: _____

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 which 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, which are rodents, like to fly into people's hair. **False**

Bats are not rodents but are classified as mammals. 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 special adaptation allow birds the ability to fly. (Do a comparison to human bones.)

6. Insects contain high amounts of protein and are eaten 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 bodies. **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**

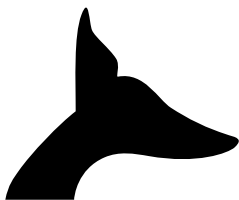
The bumps on the back of a toad are poison glands, which are used to protect the toad. Animals will usually spit the toad back out and the toad can escape from the predator.

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

A spider can spin eight different kinds of silk and spider's silk is as strong as Kevlar (steel).

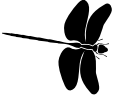
10. Mammals have the ability to show facial expressions. **True**

Mammals have the ability to express different kinds of emotions, from smiling to sadness and fear to remorse.



Facts 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 which 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 in different cultures around the world.

Bats, which are rodents, 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 steel cable.



Bird bones are hollow.



Name: _____

All Kinds of Animals

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**.

E M S A B F R O S J S N P S T
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Classify that Animal

