

VERTEBRATES: ANIMALS WITH BACKBONES

Five Classes of Vertebrates

Scientists classify animals into two categories depending on if the animal has a backbone or not. As you know, **invertebrates** are animals that do NOT have a backbone and **vertebrates** are animals that DO have a backbone.



This lesson will focus on the animals WITH backbones, the vertebrates.

Vertebrates
reptiles, birds
and how they

amphibians,
they are similar



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How many

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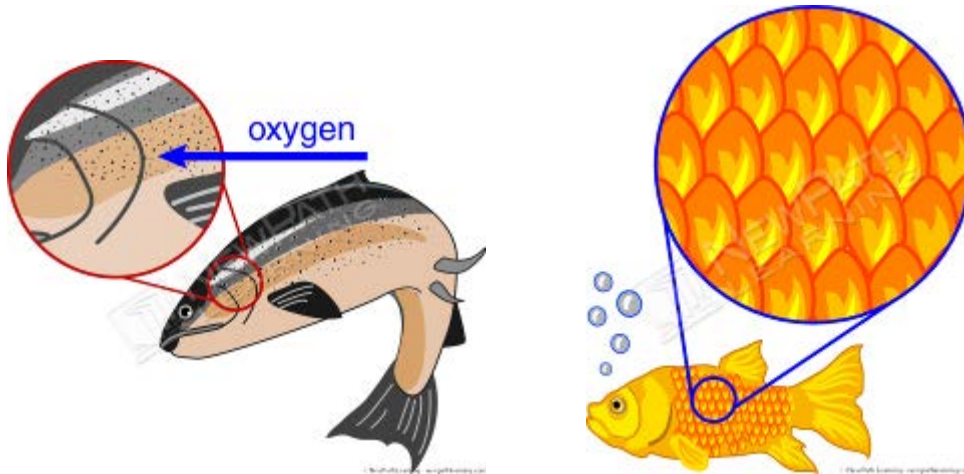
your name

Some animals are warm-blooded while others are cold-blooded. **Warm-blooded** animals control their own body temperature and try to keep their insides at a constant temperature no matter what the temperature is around them. The internal temperatures of **cold-blooded** animals depend on the outside temperature around them.

Lesson Checkpoint:
What does it mean to be cold-blooded?

Fish


Let's discuss some characteristics of the different classes of vertebrates. Let's begin in the water. **Fish** most often have bodies that are covered with **scales** and breathe using their **gills**. Most fish lay eggs. Fish are cold-blooded animals.



Lesson Checkpoint:
What are the bodies of fish covered with?

Amphibians

Now let's stay in the water for a moment. Amphibians spend part of their lives in water. Like fish, amphibians breathe with gills. Like frogs for example, amphibians are cold-blooded animals. They live around them and have live births.

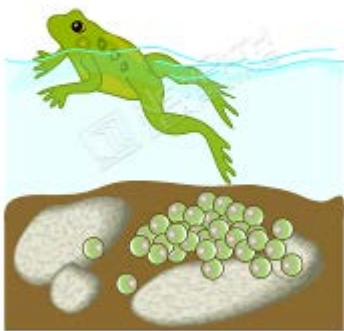


PREVIEW

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Lesson Checkpoint:
What is so unique about where amphibians live during their lifetime?

Reptiles

Reptiles are amphibians that have bodies that are covered in scales. The majority of **reptiles** live on land. Alligators and snakes are examples of reptiles. **Reptiles** use their lungs to breath.



Lesson Checkpoint:
What is an example of a reptile?

Birds

Birds use the most common

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A bird's warm-blooded.



Mammals

One more class of vertebrates. **Mammals** are vertebrates that have hair or fur and produce milk for their young.



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