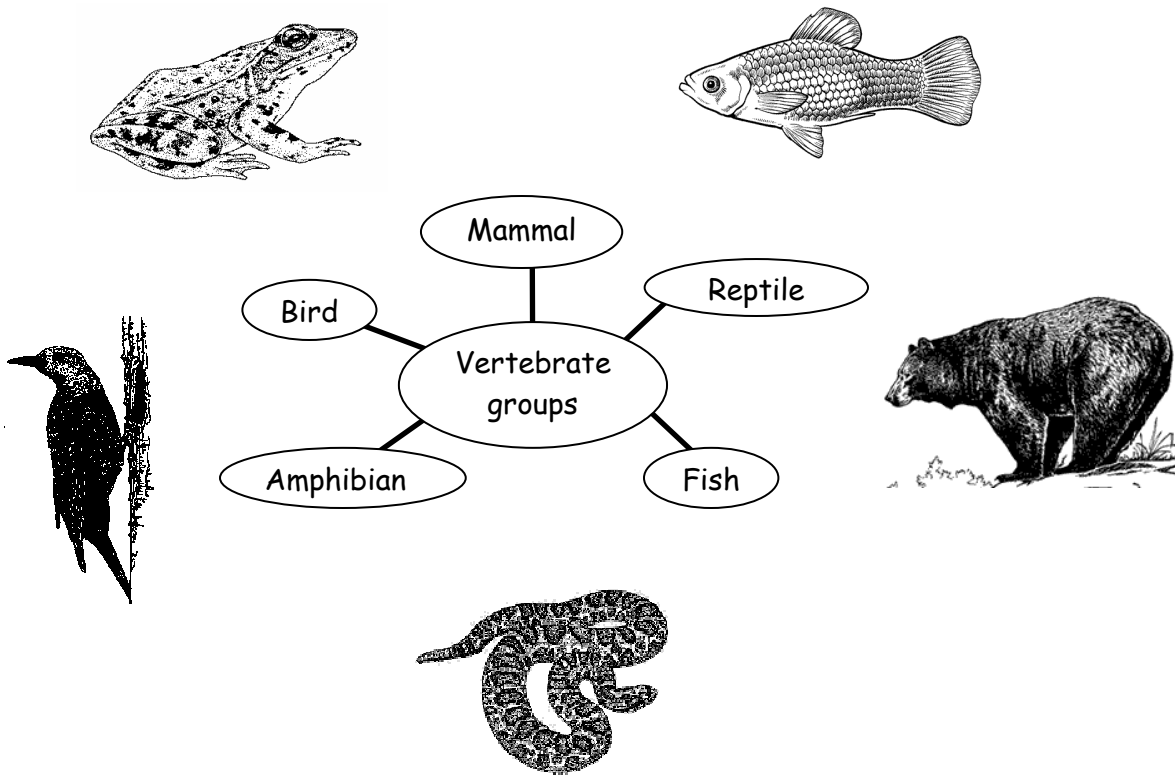


Putting animals into groups

With so many animals on the planet scientists need to identify them individually by giving each species a name but it also useful to divide animals with similar characteristics into groups. Whilst going round the Discovery Centre you will be studying a variety of species in detail and finding out some amazing facts about them. At the end of your tour round the Discovery Centre you will be able to classify the animals you have seen into groups.

Do you know the five vertebrate groups animals can be split into? (*Vertebrate means they have a backbone.*) Match the picture below with the group title by drawing an arrow from the animal to the group it belongs to.



Which group of animals is not included in the vertebrate groups because they don't have backbones? _____

Now go round the Discovery Centre in small groups studying the animals as you go. The activities in the booklet will focus on two of the five vertebrate groups. These are the only animals you have to study in depth but do enjoy looking at all the animals!

African pancake tortoise

How does this animal escape from predators? _____

Python

There is a very large python near the African pancake tortoise enclosure what species of python is it? _____

Where does this species of python live in the wild? _____

How many eggs can this species lay? _____

Axolotl

The axolotl is the larval stage of which animal? _____

What can this animal do in its larval stage that others can't? _____

Philippines sailfin lizard

How does the Sailfin incubate its eggs? _____

Where is this species normally found in the wild? _____

How do you think the skin of this lizard would feel? Try and describe the skin.

Dwarf crocodile

"The West African Dwarf crocodile is the most armoured of all crocodiles"

Why do crocodiles need armour? _____

Where would you find Dwarf crocodiles in the wild? _____

Where do they make their nests and how many eggs do they lay? _____

Green and Black poison frogs

Why are these and other species of
poison frog brightly coloured? _____

Where do these frogs lay their eggs and
how do they keep them from drying out?

Matamata

How do they detect fish in
murky water? _____

Where do the Matamata lay
their eggs? _____

Spiny iguana

What does a spiny iguana eat? _____

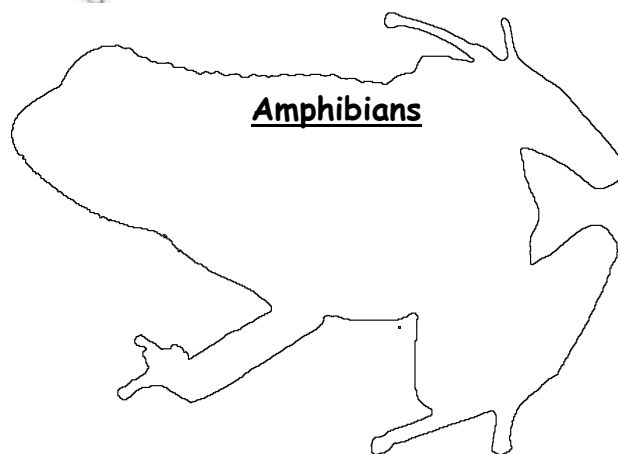
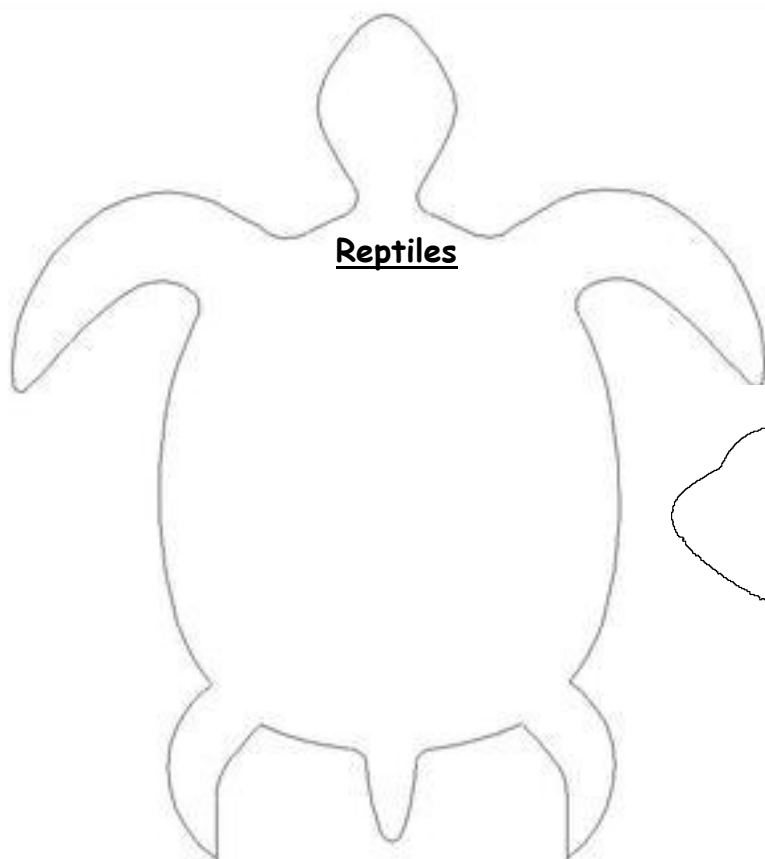
This species is arboreal but what does that mean? _____

Splitting animals into smaller groups

The animals that you have studied can be split into two groups called classes. Animals in these classes have characteristics in common. *(See the table below)*

Class: Reptiles	Class: Amphibians
Reptiles are cold-blooded and their skin is dry and scaly. Reptiles lay leathery or hard shelled eggs on land. The tough shell of the egg protects it from losing moisture. Reptiles have lungs and breathe air.	Amphibians have moist skin and live in water or boggy places to keep themselves from drying out. They lay their eggs in or near to water to keep the jelly-like coating of the egg moist. Amphibians have a larval stage (tadpoles) that lives in water and have gills. As they get bigger they go through a metamorphosis and turn into adults that have lungs and live both on land and in water.

Decide whether the animals you have studied today were reptiles or amphibians and put the name of the species in the correct space below.



Splitting the reptile class into orders

Classes of animals can be split down further into even smaller groups called orders. The reptile class has over 4,500 species in it and it can be split into 3 orders. How would you split the reptile class into 3 different orders? Use the descriptions below to help you decide which species of reptile you have seen today would go into which order. Make a list of the species in the space provided.

Order	Description of the animals in the order	Species we have in the Discovery Centre
A	Animals in this group have hard shell into which they can retract their limbs, head and tail for protection. Their skin is soft and scaly. Some of the animals in this order have legs and live on land while others have flippers because they live in water.	
B	Some animals in this group have legs while others don't have any legs. Their skin is soft, dry and scaly. Some of the animals in this order have large fangs which can be used to kill their prey by injecting poison.	
C	The animals in this group spend a lot of time in the water. They are very good swimmers and they can use their feet and tail to swim. They have lots of very sharp, pointed teeth which they use for catching prey.	

What name would you give to each of the orders of reptiles?






Order A: _____

Order B: _____

Order C: _____

Splitting mammals into smaller groups

Most of the animals you will see round the Zoo are mammals. The class 'mammalia' can be split into smaller groups. As you go round the Zoo, look out for examples of mammals from each of the groups in the table below. How many from each group can you find?

Group	Main features	Examples in the Zoo
<p>Carnivores</p> 	<p>Meat-eaters with forward facing eyes. They have sharp claws and teeth.</p>	
<p>Marsupials</p> 	<p>They have a pouch on their belly where the young are carried after being born.</p>	
<p>Primates</p> 	<p>They have grasping fingers and toes and can climb very well. They have forward facing eyes and can jump well.</p>	
<p>Rodents</p> 	<p>They have pointy noses and chisel-like teeth that grow continually. These mammals like to gnaw.</p>	
<p>Ungulates</p> 	<p>These plant eaters have large flat molar teeth to grind down vegetation. They have hooves on their feet.</p>	