

LET'S CLASSIFY

# ANIMALS!



Level: **M** Word Count: **373**

100th Word: **are (page 8)**

Teaching Focus:

Vocabulary: Synonyms

What synonyms can you find for the word classify?

## Tips on Reading This Book with Children:

**1.** Read the title.

*Predictions – after reading the title have children make predictions about the book.*

**2.** Take a book walk.

*Talk about the pictures in the book. Use the content words from the book as you take the picture walk.*

*Have children find one or two words they know as they do a picture walk.*

**3.** Have children find words they recognize in the text.

**4.** Have children read the remaining text aloud.

**5.** Strategy Talk – use to assist children while reading.

- Get your mouth ready
- Look at the picture
- Think...does it make sense
- Think...does it look right
- Think...does it sound right
- Chunk it – by looking for a part you know

**6.** Read it again.

**7.** Complete the activities at the end of the book.



# Let's Classify Animals!

by Kelli Hicks

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**Science content editor: Kristi Lew**

A former high school teacher with a background in biochemistry and more than 10 years of experience in cytogenetic laboratories, Kristi Lew specializes in taking complex scientific information and making it fun and interesting for scientists and non-scientists alike. She is the author of more than 20 science books for children and teachers.

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# Sorting Species

Did you know there are millions of different kinds of animals, or **species**, living on the Earth? Scientists study these species and classify, or sort, them into groups.



All over the world scientists search the land and sea in order to discover new species.





To classify different species into groups, scientists study what makes species similar and what makes them different. Let's take a closer look.



*tarantula*



*polar bear*



# Classifying Animals

All the animals that have hair or fur on their bodies are in the same group. They are **warm-blooded** animals and give live birth to their young. The babies drink milk from their mothers. How do we classify these critters?

*baby goat*



*pit viper*

They are mammals. Elephants, polar bears, and goats are all mammals. People are mammals too.

## Mammals

Warm-blooded



Give birth to live young



Babies drink milk from mother



*African elephants*



*polar bear with cubs*



There is another group of warm-blooded animals. The critters in this group have feathers and wings instead of hair or fur. Their babies **hatch** from eggs. How do we classify these critters?



*gentoo penguin with chick*

They are birds. Hummingbirds, cardinals, and penguins are all birds. They live in different parts of the world, but they all belong to the same group.

## Birds

Warm-blooded



Babies hatch from eggs



Have feathers and wings



red cardinal



hummingbird



Some critters have **scales** instead of fur or feathers. They are **cold-blooded** animals and have dry skin. Most lay eggs. How do we classify these critters?

*pit viper*



They are reptiles. Crocodiles, **chameleons**, and snakes are reptiles.

Reptiles	
Cold-blooded	✓
Babies hatch from eggs	✓
Have scales	✓



Some animals live both on land and in water. They are cold-blooded like reptiles, but have moist skin instead of dry skin. They lay eggs and some have webbed feet. How do we classify these critters?

*Amazon leaf frog*



They are amphibians. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are all amphibians.

## Amphibians

Cold-blooded



Babies hatch from eggs



Live on land and in water



14

*salamander*

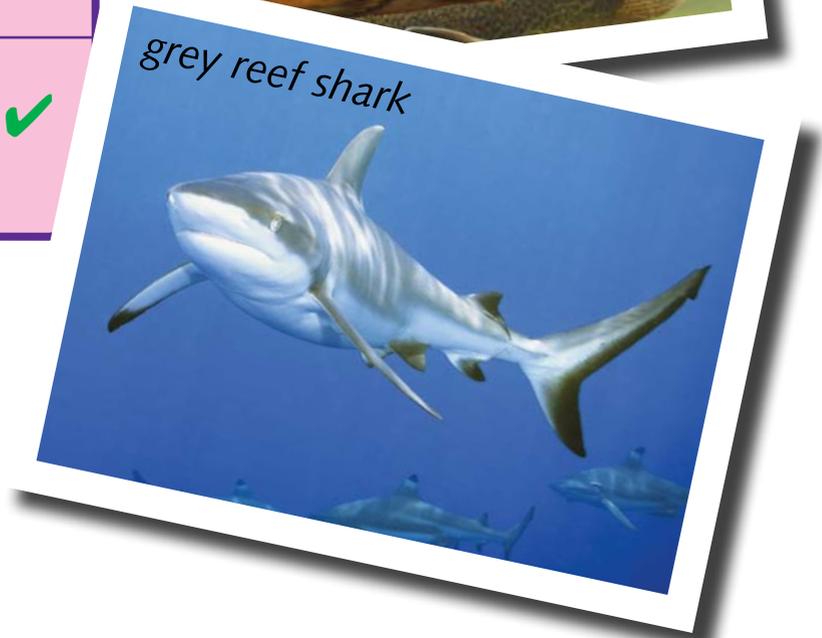
Not all animals breathe above the water. Some breathe underwater with **gills**. They have scales and fins. They are cold-blooded and some lay eggs. How do we classify these critters?

*sockeye salmon*



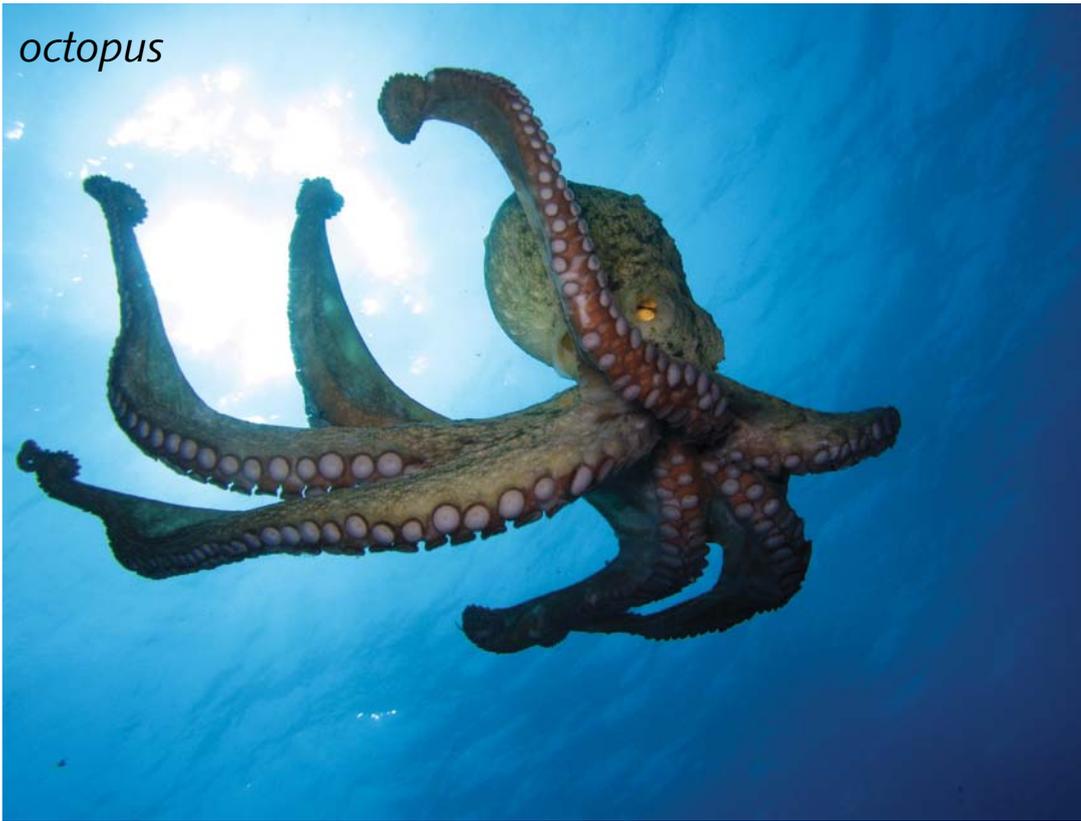
They are fish. Did you know that sharks are fish? They belong in the same group with trout, salmon, and guppies.

<b>Fish</b>	
Cold-blooded	✓
Have scales and fins	✓
Breathe underwater with gills	✓



There is a group of animals that belong together because they don't have a backbone.

*octopus*



They are invertebrates. Octopuses, earthworms, and snails are all invertebrates.

## Invertebrates

Do not have a backbone



*earthworms*



*garden snail*



Some invertebrates are grouped together because they have multiple body parts and six or more legs. How do we classify these critters?



*stag beetle*

They are insects and arachnids. Bees, grasshoppers, and beetles are all insects.

<b>Insects</b>	
No backbone	✓
Six legs	✓
Have antennae	✓



Spiders and scorpions  
are arachnids.

### Arachnids

No backbone



Eight legs



No antennae





1. What are some characteristics of mammals?
2. How would you classify a lizard?
3. Can you explain the similarities and differences between reptiles and amphibians?

# Glossary

**chameleons** (kuh-MEE-lee-uhnz): lizards that can change colors, sometimes matching their surroundings

**cold-blooded** (KOHLD BLUHD-id): animals whose body temperature changes with the temperature of their surroundings

**gills** (GILZ): the organs on a fish's side through which it breathes

**hatch** (HACH): the action of a baby bird or reptile breaking out of its shell

**scales** (SKALEZ): the small pieces that make the covering on the body of a fish, snake, or other reptile

**species** (SPEE-sheez): one of the groups of animals sorted according to shared characteristics

**warm-blooded** (WORM BLUHD-id): animals whose body temperature stays the same even when the temperature of their surroundings changes

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## Websites

[www.brainpopjr.com/science/animals/classifyinganimals/](http://www.brainpopjr.com/science/animals/classifyinganimals/)

[www.kidsbiology.com](http://www.kidsbiology.com)

[www.kidzone.ws/animals/animal\\_classes.htm](http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/animal_classes.htm)

## About the Author

Kelli Hicks would classify herself as a writer, a learner, and someone who loves to curl up in a cozy chair to read a book with her kids. She lives in Tampa with her husband, her kids Mackenzie and Barrett, and their golden retriever Gingerbread.



## Comprehension & Extension:

- Summarize:

*Identify how scientists classify animals.  
Give an example of a critter that belongs in  
each group.*

- Text to Self Connection:

*What kinds of animals live near your house?  
Is there a critter you would like to have for  
a pet? Why?*

- Extension:

*Which group of animals was your favorite to learn  
about? Make a poster or flyer that describes the  
characteristics of the group you chose and draw a  
picture of a critter that belongs in that group.*

## Sight Words I Used:

**are**  
**have**  
**how**  
**there**  
**they**

## Vocabulary Check:

***Use glossary words in a  
sentence.***

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