AM I A REPTILE? / AM I AN AMPHIBIAN?
EDUCATOR NOTES

Activity Overview:

Categorizing animals into groups such as mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish and invertebrates is a system that scientists use to identify and classify species based on shared characteristics and differences. Reptiles and amphibians have many similarities, yet they are different from one another in skin texture, how their offspring develop and the way that they spend their lives on land versus in the water. This activity asks to classify animals based on their physical characteristics with a focus on reptiles and amphibians.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

In this activity, students will develop their observation and animal classification skills by recognizing and differentiating between reptiles, amphibians and other animal groups based on their characteristics.

After completing this activity, students will be better able to:

- Recognize the physical differences between reptiles and amphibians.
- Classify animals into their respective groups.
- Describe characteristics that make animals different or similar to one another.

Grade Level(s):

Kindergarten through 5th grade

Education Standards:

Supports NGSS K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-1, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS3-1, 4-LS1-1

Instructions:

Use the Animal Classification Chart with your students to review the six basic animal classifications. Then, have students complete the *Am I a Reptile?* and *Am I an Amphibian?* activity sheets by labeling each animal by with classification and circling the reptiles and amphibians.

Extensions:

To take this learning further, students can:

- Practice being a scientist! Go outside to observe animals, or stay inside and observe animals by watching the National Zoo's animal webcams. Record the details of what animals are seen and heard. Notes could include the animal's features such as size, color, shape and sound! Then, group the animal observations into the correct animal classification categories and share the findings with classmates, family or friends!

Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute

ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION CHART

Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute

The animal classification chart below lists the common traits that different animal groups have. Some animals may not meet all of the traits but still fit in that group. For example, a platypus is a mammal but it lays eggs! Some animals are very unique. Use the chart below to help you identify which group each animal belongs to on the activity sheets.

MAMMALS	REPTILES	AMPHIBIANS	BIRDS	FISH	INSECT
• Warm-blooded or endothermic • Have a backbone • Have hair or fur • Give birth to live babies • Produce milk for their young	• Cold-blooded or ectothermic • Have a backbone • Have scales or scutes • Lay hard or leathery shelled eggs	• Cold-blooded or ectothermic • Have a backbone • Have moist skin • Lay soft jelly eggs • Go through metamorphosis	• Warm-blooded or endothermic • Have a backbone • Have feathers • Lay hard shelled eggs • Have hollow bones	• Cold-blooded or ectothermic • Have a backbone • Have scales, gills and fins • Lay unfertilized eggs • Live in the water	• Cold-blooded or ectothermic • Doesn't have a backbone • Have an exoskeleton • Lay eggs • Have a three-part body (head, thorax and abdomen) • Have compound eyes and a pair of antennae

AM I A REPTILE?

The animals below asked, "Am I a reptile?". We need your help! Circle all the reptiles below. Then, beside each animal, write the group it belongs to (reptile, amphibian, mammal, fish, bird or insect).

1

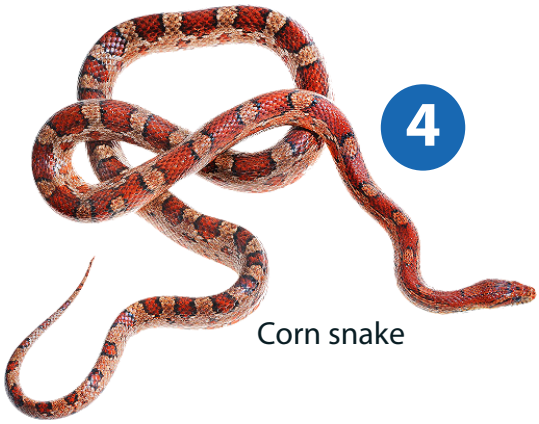
Pangolin

Indigo bunting 2

5

Luna moth

4



Corn snake

3

African spurred tortoise

6

Red-bellied newt

7

Leopard gecko

8

Siamese crocodile

Prussian carp

9

Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute

AM I AN AMPHIBIAN?

The animals below asked, "Am I an amphibian?". We need your help! Circle all the amphibians below. Then, beside each animal, write its name and the group it belongs to (reptile, amphibian, mammal, fish, bird or insect).

1

Pangolin

Indigo bunting 2

5

Luna moth

Smooth-sided toad

4

3

African spurred tortoise

6

Red-bellied newt

7

Edible frog

8

Caecilian

Prussian carp

9

Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute

AM I AN AMPHIBIAN?

ANSWER KEY

The animals below asked, "Am I an amphibian?". We need your help! Circle all the amphibians below. Then, beside each animal, write its name and the group it belongs to (reptile, amphibian, mammal, fish, bird or insect).

1

Pangolin
Mammal

2

Indigo bunting
Bird

3

African spurred tortoise
Reptile

5

Luna moth
Insect

Smooth-sided toad
Amphibian

4

6

Red-bellied newt
Amphibian

7

Edible frog
Amphibian

8

Caecilian
Amphibian

Prussian carp
Fish

9

Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute

AM I A REPTILE?

ANSWER KEY

The animals below asked, "Am I a reptile?". We need your help! Circle all the reptiles below. Then, beside each animal, write the group it belongs to (reptile, amphibian, mammal, fish, bird or invertebrate).

1

Pangolin
Mammal

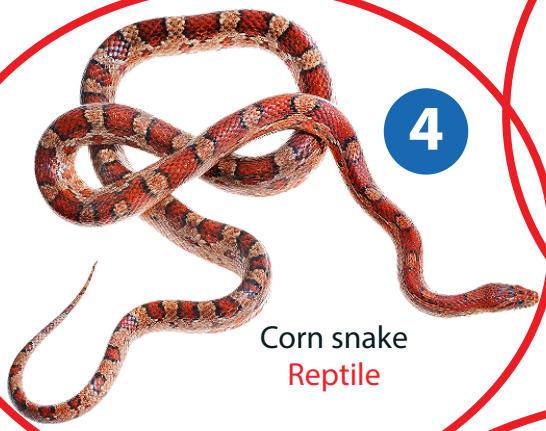
2

Indigo bunting
Bird

3

African spurred tortoise
Reptile

4



Corn snake
Reptile

5

Luna moth
Insect

6

Red-bellied newt
Amphibian

7

Leopard gecko
Reptile

8

Siamese crocodile
Reptile

Prussian carp
Fish

9

Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute