

Y6 Classifying Animals

KS2 Y6 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Is a whale a fish or a mammal?

Step 1 · How does it breathe?

It breathes air with lungs, through a blowhole; fish use gills

Step 2 · How does it feed its young?

On milk

Step 3 · Does it have hair?

Yes, a few bristles, especially when young

Answer: A mammal. Living in water and having fins doesn't make an animal a fish.

Check: Classify using the defining features of the group, not where the animal lives.

2. Now try one with the steps

Compare a frog and a lizard.

Step 1 · Similarities

Step 2 · Skin

Step 3 · Eggs

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a vertebrate?

2. Name the five groups of vertebrates.

3. How many legs does an insect have?

4. How many legs does an arachnid have?

5. Which vertebrate group has feathers?

6. Which vertebrate group has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs on land?

7. Which group do slugs and snails belong to?

8. Give TWO features that all mammals share.

9. How many body parts does an insect have?

10. A crab has a hard jointed shell and 10 legs. Which invertebrate group is it in?

11. Why is a bat not a bird?

12. Give ONE way an amphibian differs from a reptile.

13. An animal has fins, gills and scales, and lives in a river. Which group?

14. Most animal species on Earth are vertebrates or invertebrates?

4. Before you hand it in

Classifying by where an animal lives: 'whales are fish because they swim'.

Use the defining features: gills, feathers, fur, milk, skin type.

Calling every minibeast a 'bug' or an 'insect'.

Count legs and body parts: insects have 6 legs and 3 body parts.

Thinking all mammals give birth to live young.

The features ALL mammals share are hair or fur and feeding young on milk.

Thinking only birds lay eggs.

Feathers are what make a bird a bird.