



# ZOO VOCABULARY



## GRADE 5

### KEY WORDS

- amphibians
- arthropods
- birds
- class
- classify
- cnidarian
- echinoderms
- family
- fish
- genus
- invertebrate
- kingdom
- mammals
- mollusk
- order
- phylum
- reptiles
- scientific name
- species
- taxonomy
- vertebrate

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn new vocabulary words based on animals at the zoo and classification terms.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Amphibians: Cold-blooded vertebrate that live part of their lives in water and part on land (although some are completely aquatic). They lay eggs and their toes never have claws.  
Example – frogs.
- Arthropods: Invertebrates with jointed legs such as spiders and lobsters.
- Birds: Vertebrates that are warm-blooded, have feathers, and lay hard-shelled eggs.  
Example – parrot.
- Class: The main division of phylum, bringing together animals with a closer relationship.  
Examples of classes are Mammalia and Reptilia.
- Classify: To separate things into similar groups.
- Cnidarian: Invertebrates with stinging cells such as anemones and jellyfish.
- Echinoderms: Invertebrates with spiny skin such as sea urchins and sea stars.
- Family: A rank of classification where animals are recognizably similar.  
For example, the family Felidae includes all cat-like animals.  
Family names end in the suffix –idea.
- Fish: Vertebrates that are cold-blooded and live in water. They are also covered in scales.  
Example –perch and sharks.
- Genus: A group of closely related animals within a family. A genus name should be capitalized and italicized or underlined. Example – Felis, cats that purr but do not roar.
- Invertebrate: Animals without a backbone.
- Kingdom: The highest rank of classification. The kingdoms are: Animalia, Plantae, Monera (prokaryotes), and Protista (single-celled eukaryotes).
- Mammals: Warm-blooded vertebrates that have hair or fur, give birth to live young (although a few lay eggs), and produce milk for their young. Example – humans and dogs.
- Mollusk: An invertebrate that has a soft body such as a snail or clam.
- Order: An order divides a class. The class Mammalia contains many orders such as primates, Carnivora, and Rodentia.
- Phylum: Subdivides the kingdoms into organisms with a broad range of similar characteristics. Chordata is a phylum of the kingdom Animalia.





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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONTINUED

- Reptiles: Vertebrates that are cold-blooded, have lungs and dry skin, and are usually covered with scales such as crocodiles and lizards.
- Scientific Name: A two-part Latin or Greek name given to all living things consisting of genus and species. A scientific name is always italicized or underlined. The genus is capitalized and the species name is not.
- Species: The most specialized division of classification. It defines animals that are of the same kind and can interbreed. A species name is always underlined or italicized and is never capitalized.
- Taxonomy: The science of the classification of living things.
- Vertebrate: Animals with a backbone.
- A summary of the classification system:  
Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species

## PROCEDURE

- Have students practice pronunciation and spelling of the vocabulary words.
- Then ask students to tell what they think they mean.
- Finally, have students find examples of the vocabulary at the zoo.

## RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Test the students to make sure they know the meanings of the vocabulary words.

## EXTENSIONS

- Have a spelling bee using zoo vocabulary and animal names.
- Give each student or group an animal picture. Ask them to write a description using some of the vocabulary learned. The other students or groups must decide which animal they are describing.
- Collect animal pictures and divide them into classification groups. Make a bulletin board display or large collage of the pictures.

## TEACHER HINTS

- If you cannot go to the zoo, have students find examples of the vocabulary in books or online on zoo websites.

