**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.
ZOO VOCABULARY

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.