



Vertebrates are animals with a skeleton inside their bodies and a backbone. There are five groups: mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles. A pond can be home to animals from almost all of them.

Remember

To find out which group an animal belongs to, look at three things: what covers its body (hair, feathers, scales or bare skin), how it breathes (with lungs or with gills) and how it is born (from its mother's body or from an egg).

1 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

amphibians egg gills hair lungs scales

1. Mammals have bodies covered in _____.
2. Birds hatch from an _____ and their bodies are covered in feathers.
3. Fish breathe through _____ and swim with fins.
4. Frogs and toads are _____: when they are young they live in water.

2 Read and tick T if the sentence is true or F if it is false.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A tortoise is a reptile and hatches from an egg. | T ☐ F ☐ |
| 2. A dolphin is a fish because it lives in the sea. | T ☐ F ☐ |
| 3. A bat is a mammal that can fly. | T ☐ F ☐ |
| 4. Amphibians have bodies covered in feathers. | T ☐ F ☐ |
| 5. Snakes have no legs, but they do have a backbone. | T ☐ F ☐ |

3 Join each animal to its group with a line.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Dolphin ● | ● Fish |
| Penguin ● | ● Reptile |
| Salamander ● | ● Mammal |
| Lizard ● | ● Bird |
| Sardine ● | ● Amphibian |

4 Circle the correct word.

- Birds have bodies covered in (hair / feathers).
- Fish breathe with (gills / lungs).
- Reptiles have skin covered in (scales / feathers).
- Baby mammals drink (water / milk) from their mother.

5 Read the text and circle the animals that hatch from an egg.

On my grandmother's farm there are hens, two cows, a horse and some ducks that swim in the pond. The dog sleeps by the wall, and a lizard hides between the stones. In the garden pond there are frogs and a few red fish.

Did you know?

The platypus is a mammal that lays eggs. It lives in the rivers of Australia and has a beak like a duck's. When its babies hatch, it feeds them milk, like every other mammal.

6 Look at how a frog grows. Then number the sentences in order from 1 to 5.



- ☐ It grows its front legs and its tail gets shorter.
- ☐ The tadpole grows its back legs.
- ☐ The adult frog leaves the water and breathes with lungs.
- ☐ The frog lays its eggs in the water.
- ☐ A tadpole with a tail comes out of the egg.

7 Find the names of six vertebrates in the wordsearch.

T	A	T	O	A	D	U	O	I	S
T	R	H	E	O	U	S	L	D	O
L	S	E	A	G	U	L	L	E	T
S	T	T	O	R	T	O	I	S	E
F	D	L	T	O	F	H	T	R	G
O	T	O	O	X	R	H	U	E	U
X	R	G	I	O	R	O	S	O	U
G	O	T	T	E	E	R	E	O	O
L	U	E	R	D	T	S	R	U	S
E	T	R	O	T	E	E	T	T	T

HORSE SEAGULL TROUT TOAD TORTOISE FOX

