

Knowledge Organiser - Year 1 - Science: Animals

including humans– Identify common animals



Common animals are those found easily in our local environment. By observing the habitats nearby, you can try to identify, name, describe and compare the structures of these animals.

Key Vocabulary

Amphibian	An animal that can live in water or on land e.g. frog or toad.
Bird	Birds have wings, a beak, feathers and lay eggs.
Carnivore	An animal that eats meat.
Diet	The food and drink eaten by a person or animal.
Environment	All living and non-living things in a habitat e.g. rocks, plants, water.
Fish	An animal that lives in water and has wet scales, fins and gills.
Habitat	The home of an animal or plant.
Herbivore	An animal that eats plants.
Insects	Insects have 6 legs, antennae and 3 parts to their body.
Mammal	An animal that breathes air, has hair or fur and gives birth to live babies.
Meat	Animals eaten for food.
Minibeast	A very small animal that does not have a backbone.
Omnivore	An animal that eats both animals and plants.
Pet	An animal that is kept in a home e.g. dog or cat and looked after by humans.
Plant	A plant has leaves, a stem and roots and needs the sun and water to grow.
Reptile	A reptile lives on land, has dry scales, breathes air and lays eggs.

Working Scientifically

Pupils can use their observations to compare and contrast animals through videos and photographs, describing how they identify and group them; grouping animals according to what they eat; and with guidance, they should begin to notice patterns and relationships. They can visit local habitats to find examples of the various groups they have studied with the forest school team. They should understand how to take care of animals in the home or those taken from their local environment and the need to return them safely after study.

Key Question: What animal is this?

You can identify what group an animal comes from because each group of animals have some things in common. For example, if you look at animals carefully, you will see that their skin is smooth or has fur, hair, feathers or scales depending on their group. All of these animals have a backbone.



Mammals have fur or hair, they breathe air and give birth to live young which they feed with milk, e.g. Badgers and foxes.



Reptiles lay eggs on land, have dry scales and cannot breathe underwater. Some common reptiles are grass snakes and common lizards.



Amphibians breathe air and also lay eggs but they lay their eggs in the water. Their babies can breathe underwater. They have slimy, smooth skin. Common frogs, toads and newts are in this group.

Birds have feathers, wings and beaks and are also air breathers. They do not all fly and they don't have teeth, but they all lay eggs that hatch into young birds, e.g. Robins, chickens and seagulls.



Fish also lay eggs, but have wet scales. They live and breathe underwater using gills. Some common fish are cod, salmon and plaice. These are all fish from the sea, but other different fish live in rivers and ponds.



Different animals eat different kinds of food. Some are carnivores (meat eaters) like the otters that live in our rivers. Some are herbivores (plant eaters) like cows, sheep and goats. Others are omnivores (animals that eat both meat and plant food) - Pigs will eat anything they can find, so they are omnivores!



Pets are animals that need to be looked after by humans. They can be part of any of these groups. Most people like to take care of mammals as they are soft and furry, but you can have a pet parrot, snake, frog or a goldfish! Pets need food, water, shelter, company and regular health checks at the vets.