

PHILADELPHIA ZOO

3400 West Girard Avenue ■ Philadelphia, PA 19104-1196 ■ 215-243-1100 ■ philadelphiazoo.org

Pre-visit activity

Living Things (Pre-K-2nd)

Classroom Activity

Animal Search: Have students search for animals in their lives. They can include wild animals they encounter as well as any pets or other domesticated animals.

- This activity should be done as a class, but students will find animals individually.
- Each student should record at least one animal, but can continue beyond that.
- If done over an extended time period, students should include animals they encounter at home or in their free time as well as at school.
- If available, students can be taken outside to a local space to look for animals during a designated time. This space can be any nearby outdoor space, including schoolyards and parks.
- Students can try to identify their animals by species, if they want and time allows. The following resources are useful:
 - [National Geographic Bird Identifier](#) (birds only)
 - [eNature Field Guide](#) (all animals)
- If students find any animals that they are unable to identify, they can ask their Zoo teacher when they come in for their class.

Individually: Students should use the included sheet to draw pictures of animals they see in their lives. Each student may complete as many sheets as they want. Students are encouraged to include the animal and its surroundings, and if possible indicate what the animal was doing when they saw it. They should also pay attention to the colors that they see, even if they cannot place them perfectly on the animal. If possible, they should bring in a photo of their animal(s). After this step is complete, students should pair up to complete the back side of their worksheet.

Standards

PA Academic: 3.1 A1, 3.1 B1

Next Generation Science: K-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1

New Jersey Core Curriculum: 5.1, 5.3A, 5.3E, 5.4 G

Common Core: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3

Vocabulary

Characteristic: A feature that helps to identify, tell apart, or describe an animal.

Mammal: A warm-blooded animal that has 3 main characteristics – fur or hair, give birth to live young, and the young drink milk.

Reptile: A cold-blooded animal that has scales and usually hatches from a soft egg.

Bird: A warm-blooded, feathered animal with modified limbs that form wings, which hatches from a hard egg.

Recommendations

Read:

[Is a Camel a Mammal?](#) – Dr. Seuss

[Miles and Miles of Reptiles](#) – Dr. Seuss

[Fine Feathered Friends](#) – Dr. Seuss

[National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Animals](#) - Catherine D. Hughes

[Let's Classify Animals](#) – Kelli Hicks

Research:

-Different mammals, birds, and reptiles that can be found where you live

-Different mammals, birds, and reptiles that make good pets for young children

Discuss:

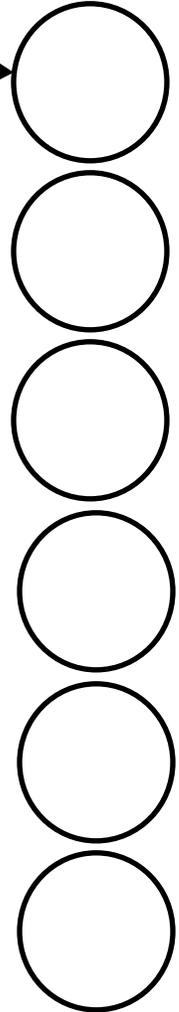
What are some ways we can group animals together?

How is a snake different from a bird? How is a bird different from a squirrel?

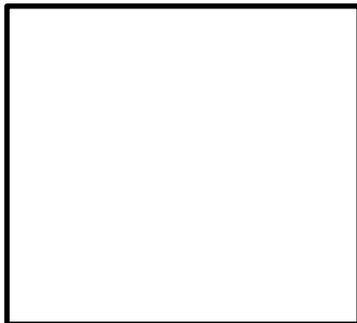
Animal Search

Draw your animal here!

Fill each circle with a color you saw on your animal



My animal was... (circle your answer)



on the ground

in the sky

in a tree or bush

in my house or
classroom

**Share one of your animals with a classmate, and check out their animal!
Then, answer these questions by circling your answer:**

My animal is bigger / smaller / the same size .

My animal has more / less / the same colors.

We found our animals in the same / different places.

Circle any words that describe your animal **in red**.

Circle any words that describe your classmate's animal **in blue**.

Fur

Small

Big

Wings

Feathers

Colorful

4 legs

2 legs

Big ears

Small ears

Scales

Flies

Runs

Crawls

Swims

Slithers

Hops

No ears