

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Animals can be classified into 2 groups. The Vertebrates are animals with a backbone. The Invertebrates are animals without a backbone. Run your hand down your back. Do you feel the bumpy bones? That is your backbone. You are a vertebrate.

There are 5 groups of Vertebrates:

- mammals - warm blooded animals that have hair or fur and are born alive.
- birds - warm blooded animals that have feathers and lay eggs.
- fish - cold blooded animals that have scales, gills, and fins and lay eggs.
- reptiles - cold blooded animals that have scales, and lungs and lay eggs.
- amphibians - cold blooded animals that have a smooth skin and can live on land or in water.

Warm blooded animals have a constant body temperature. Cold blooded animals have a body temperature that adjusts to the temperature of their environment.

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There are many groups of Invertebrates. Here are four of the main ones.

annelids - cold blooded animals that have a soft body with sections.

echinoderms - cold blooded animals that have bodies with rough skin and sharp spines.

mollusks - cold blooded animals with a soft body and sometimes a hard shell.

arthropods - cold blooded animals with jointed legs.

