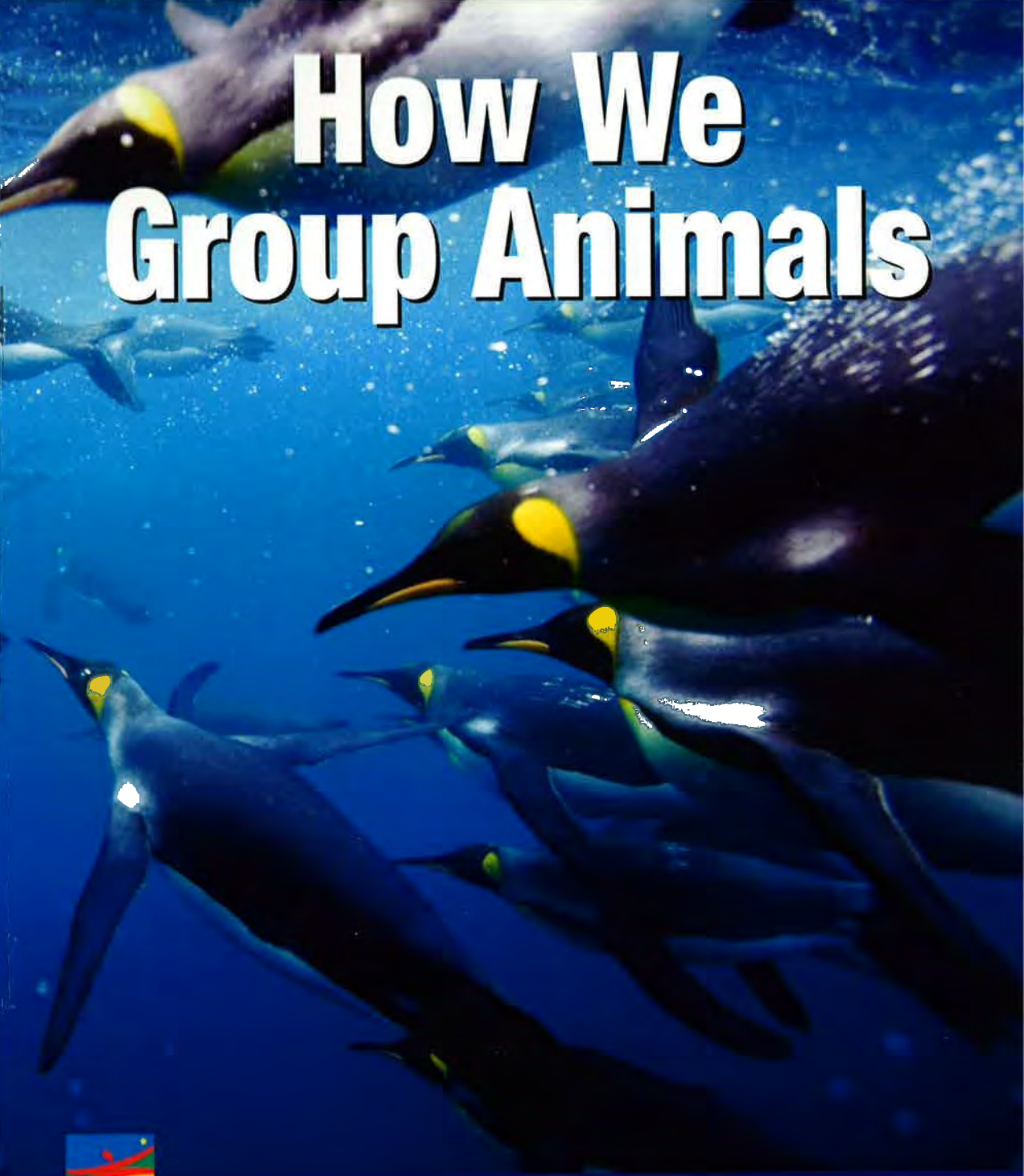


How We Group Animals

by Kira Freed

Benchmark Education

Level 24 L Word Count: 627*

The Big Idea

This book discusses ways to group animals. It focuses on different types of animals, how they move, and other ways to group them.

Skills at a Glance

Monitor-Reading:
- Retell what you've read

Comprehension:
- Compare and contrast

Phonics:
- Variant vowel /o͞o/ (food, mushroom, smooth, too, zoos)

Fluency:
- Read question marks

Tier Two Vocabulary:
- behave, colorful, produce, quickly, tiny

Tier Three Vocabulary:
- amphibians, backbone, cold-blooded, coverings, eggs, feathers, fins, flippers, fly, gills, hair, hatch, hunt, legs, mammals, meat, milk, reptiles, scales, skin, swim, tame, teeth, warm-blooded, wild, wings

Grammar, Word Study, and Language Development:
- Use prepositions (with, without)
- Use homonyms (group, place, type, look)

Sentence Pattern:
- _____ have _____ on their _____.

* Numerals, vocabulary words on pages 2 and 3, and words in photo captions, labels, diagrams, and charts are not included in the word count for this book.

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Benchmark Education Company
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Credits:
Editor: Tara Funk
Creative Director: Glenn Davis
Director of Photography: Doug Schneider

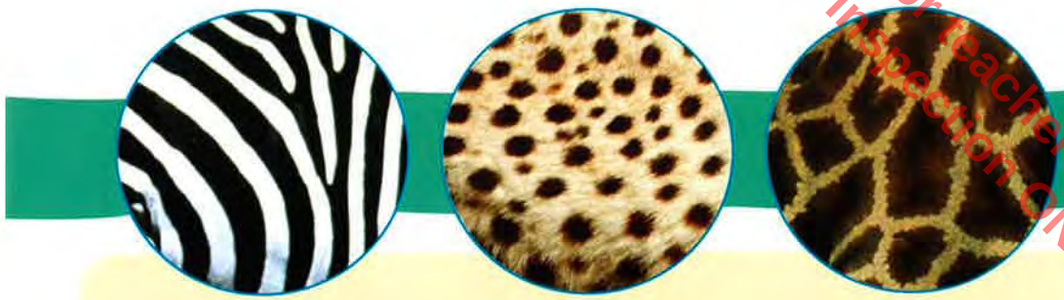
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How can we group animals?



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by Kira Freed

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I need to know these words.

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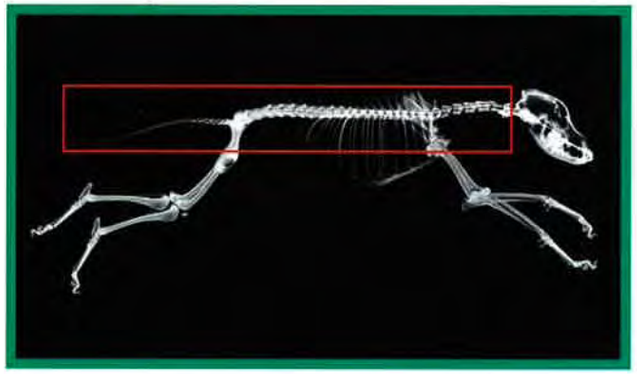
amphibians



mammals



backbone



reptiles



cold-blooded



warm-blooded



What Is an Animal?

We can group all things into living and nonliving things. We can group living things into animals and plants. Animals must find food to eat. Plants make their own food. Most animals move as they grow. Most plants stay in one place as they grow. How else are animals different from plants?



▲ Deer travel to find food.



▲ Trees stay in one place as they grow.



Did You Know?

A fungus is not a plant *or* an animal. A mushroom is a type of fungus. The mold that grows on bread is a fungus, too.



We can group animals by how they look. Another way to group animals is by how they behave. Read about the ways we group animals.





▲ What other animals have spots?



▲ What other animals run fast?

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What Are the Types of Animals?

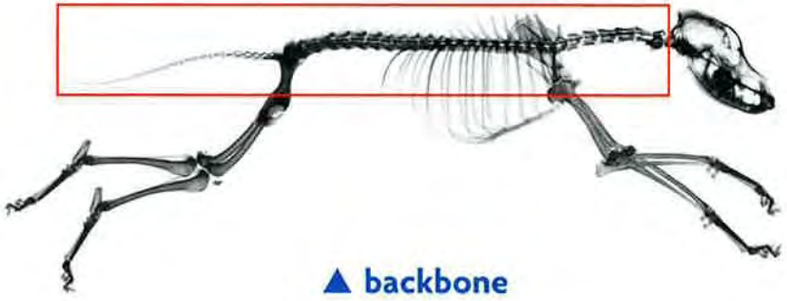
Some animals have **backbones**. Other animals do not have backbones. Insects, spiders, and snails do not have backbones. Some animals without backbones have soft bodies. Other animals without backbones have hard bodies.



▲ This octopus has a soft body.

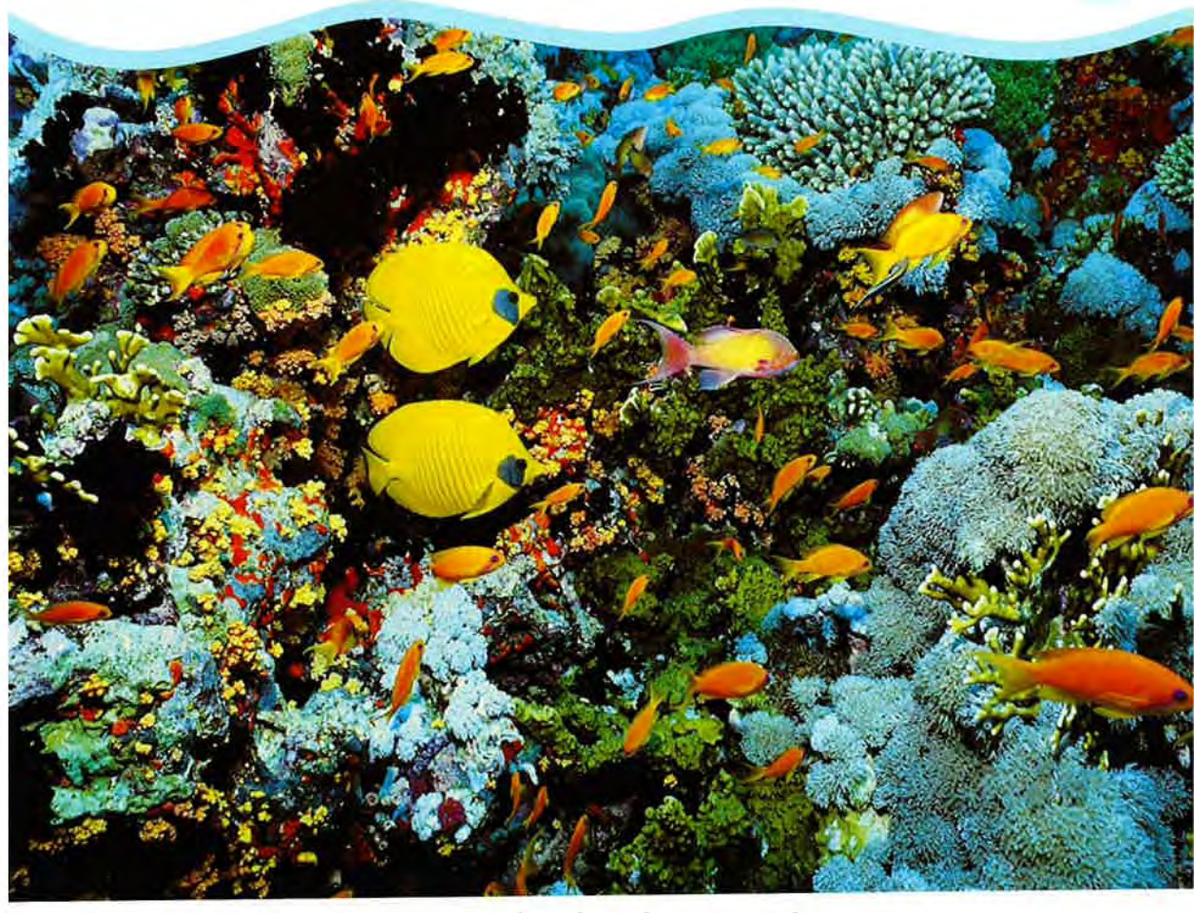


▲ This crab's body is hard on the outside.



▲ backbone

Five types of animals have backbones. Fish are one of these five types. Fish use fins to swim in water. Fish have scales on their bodies. Fish have gills to breathe under water. Some fish live in fresh water. Other fish live in salt water.



▲ These colorful fish live in salt water.

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Amphibians have backbones, too. Frogs and toads are two types of amphibians. Most amphibians hatch in water. Some amphibians move to land when they grow older. Many amphibians have wet skin, but some amphibians have dry skin.

How Frogs and Toads Are Different

Frogs	Toads
have smooth or slimy skin	have dry, bumpy skin
live in wet places	live in dry places
have long back legs for jumping	have short back legs for walking
have webbed feet	do not have webbed feet



Reptiles have backbones, too. Most reptiles live on land. Reptiles have scales on their bodies. Snakes, lizards, and turtles are all reptiles. Some reptiles have legs, but other reptiles do not have legs. What other ways can we group reptiles?



▲ These young sea turtles are reptiles.

▲ A rattlesnake is a dangerous reptile.

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