Animal Groups

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: The five vertebrate groups are **mammals** (fur, milk), **birds** (feathers), **reptiles** (dry scales), **amphibians** (moist skin, water then land) and **fish** (gills, fins).

Tricky ones: bats and whales are mammals, penguins are birds, and turtles are reptiles.

Five Animal Groups



Vertebrates, animals with backbones, are sorted into five main groups.

Mammals have hair or fur, breathe air with lungs, and most give birth to live babies. Mother mammals make milk for their young. Dogs, whales and people are mammals.

Birds have feathers, wings and beaks, and they lay eggs with hard shells. Not all birds can fly. Penguins swim instead!

Reptiles have dry, scaly skin and most lay eggs on land. Snakes, turtles and lizards are reptiles. **Amphibians** have smooth, moist skin. Most begin life in water breathing with gills, then grow lungs and live on land. Frogs and salamanders are amphibians.

Fish live in water, breathe with gills and have fins to swim. Most have scales.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Which feature do only birds have? (a) Feathers (b) Scales (c) Eggs

2. Which animal is an amphibian? (a) A turtle (b) A salamander (c) A shark

3. How do fish breathe? (a) With lungs (b) Through their skin only (c) With gills

4. What do mother mammals make for their babies? (a) Milk (b) Nests of mud (c) Shells

Animal Groups

Grade 3

2. Which group?

Circle the group each animal belongs to.

1	bat	mammal	bird	reptile
2	penguin	mammal	bird	reptile
3	crocodile	mammal	bird	reptile
4	dolphin	mammal	bird	reptile
5	owl	mammal	bird	reptile
6	tortoise	mammal	bird	reptile

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **A bat can fly. Why is it a mammal and not a bird?**

Answer Key

Animal Groups · Grade 3

1. Check your understanding

1. **Which feature do only birds have?** (a) **Feathers** (b) Scales (c) Eggs
2. **Which animal is an amphibian?** (a) A turtle (b) **A salamander** (c) A shark
3. **How do fish breathe?** (a) With lungs (b) Through their skin only (c) **With gills**
4. **What do mother mammals make for their babies?** (a) **Milk** (b) Nests of mud (c) Shells

2. Which group?

		mammal	bird	reptile
1	bat	✓		
2	penguin		✓	
3	crocodile			✓
4	dolphin	✓		
5	owl		✓	
6	tortoise			✓

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **A bat can fly. Why is it a mammal and not a bird?**
   A bat has fur, not feathers, and it feeds its babies milk, so it is a mammal.