

Animal Kingdom Card Games Worksheet

Post-Activity Questions

1. Three animals in each of the following groups belong to the same class or phylum. Circle the one that does not belong and explain why.

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|----|----------|--------|--------------|------------|
| a. | eagle | bat | toucan | owl |
| b. | trout | tuna | killer whale | moray eel |
| c. | scorpion | crab | lobster | crayfish |
| d. | turtle | frog | toad | salamander |
| e. | octopus | clam | snail | jellyfish |
| f. | ant | spider | grasshopper | butterfly |

2. Imagine you are living in the late 1700s. A biologist returns from a scientific expedition and brings a description of a newly discovered animal. The description reads—four-legged vertebrate with webbed feet, body covered in hair, female lays leathery-shelled eggs, adults have no teeth, endothermic, female produces milk, no external ears, duck-like beak. Into which class would you place this animal? Give an explanation for your choice.

3. For years, biologists debated whether the Giant and Lesser Pandas were related to raccoons or to bears, based on their physical characteristics. Today taxonomists rely more on DNA evidence to determine relationships among animals. DNA analysis places the Giant Panda with the bears and the Lesser Panda in its own family, more closely related to raccoons. Why are physical characteristics alone sometimes not enough to classify animals? Give some examples.

4. (*Optional*) Search the Internet for animal species discovered within your lifetime. Choose one and write a brief report on the animal, including how scientists determined its classification.