

Animal Needs and Life Cycles

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Glossary

adaptation (ad-ap-TAY-shuhn) a body structure or a behavior that helps an organism survive in its environment **(12)**

amphibian (am-FIB-ee-uhn) a type of vertebrate that usually begins its life in water but lives on land as an adult **(6)**

arthropod (AR-thruh-pod) a type of invertebrate that has jointed legs, a segmented body, and an exoskeleton, or hard outer covering **(5)**

bird (BURD) a type of vertebrate that has feathers and wings **(6)**

camouflage (KAM-uh-flahzh) an adaptation that helps an animal blend in with its surroundings **(15)**

classify (KLAS-uh-fye) to group things together according to characteristics or features they have in common **(5)**

competition (kom-puh-TISH-uhn) the struggle among organisms that share the same resources, such as sources of food, water, or shelter **(9)**

diversity (di-VUR-si-tee) variety **(4)**

environment (en-VYE-ruhn-muhnt) all the physical things and conditions, such as soil, air, water, plants, animals, and weather, that surround a living thing **(8)**

fish (FISH) a type of vertebrate that breathes through gills and lives its entire life in water **(6)**

heredity (huh-RED-i-tee) the passing of traits from parents to offspring **(12)**

hibernate (HYE-bur-nayt) to spend winter in an inactive, sleep-like state **(17)**

instinct (IN-stingkt) a behavior that is an inherited trait; animals are born with certain instincts **(13)**

invertebrate (in-VUR-tuh-brit) an animal that does not have a backbone **(5)**

larva (LAHR-vuh) a stage in the life cycle of some animals that occurs after the animal hatches from its egg; plural: *larvae* **(22)**

learned behavior (LURND bi-HAYV-yur) a behavior an animal must learn to do **(13)**

life cycle (LYFE SYE-kuhl) the series of stages and changes that an organism goes through during its life **(20)**

mammal (MAM-uhl) a type of vertebrate that usually has hair or fur, breathes with lungs, and produces milk for its young **(6)**

metamorphosis (met-uh-MOR-fuh-sis) a change in body form that occurs during the life cycle of certain animals **(22)**

migrate (MYE-grayt) to travel from one area to another to find food or reproduce **(14)**

mimicry (MIM-i-kree) an adaptation in which one type of organism looks like another type of organism **(15)**

organism (OR-guh-niz-uhm) a living thing, such as an animal or a plant **(4)**

oxygen (OK-si-juhn) a gas that animals need to live **(8)**

pupa (PYOO-puh) the stage in the life cycle of some animals that occurs after the larva stage; plural: *pupae* **(23)**

reproduce (ree-pruh-DOOS) to have young, or offspring **(4)**

reptile (REP-tyle) a type of vertebrate that has dry, scaly skin **(6)**

species (SPEE-sheez) a group composed of all the living things of the same type; great horned owls are one species of birds **(4)**

trait (TRAYT) a characteristic or feature **(12)**

vertebrate (VUR-tuh-brit) an animal that has a backbone **(6)**