

Animal Needs and Life Cycles

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Glossary

adaptation (ad-ap-TAY-shuhn) a body part or a behavior that helps a living thing stay alive in its environment (12)

amphibian (am-FIB-ee-uhn) a type of vertebrate that usually starts 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 body with sections, or segments, and a hard outer covering, or exoskeleton (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 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 whole life in water (6)

heredity (huh-RED-i-tee) the passing of traits from parents to young (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 comes 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 makes milk for its young (6)

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

migrate (MYE-grayt) to travel from one place to another to find food or have young (14)

mimicry (MIM-i-kree) an adaptation in which one kind of organism looks like another kind 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 comes 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 made up of all the living things of the same kind; great horned owls are one species of birds (4)

trait (TRAYT) a feature (12)

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