

Name: _____

Characteristics of Vertebrate Groups

	Birds	Fish	Mammals	Reptiles	Amphibians
Covering What type of body covering do animals in this group have? (ex: scales)					
Blood Are animals in this group warm-blooded or cold-blooded?					
Breathing Do the animals in this group breathe air (lungs) or water (gills)?					
Birth Do the young hatch from eggs or are they born alive?					
Milk Do the young drink milk from their mother?					
Backbone Do animals in this group have a skeleton with a backbone?					
Examples List some animals in this group.					

ANSWER KEY

Characteristics of Vertebrate Groups

	Birds	Fish	Mammals	Reptiles	Amphibians
Covering What type of body covering do animals in this group have? (ex: scales)	feathers	scales	hair or fur	scales	smooth skin
Blood Are animals in this group warm-blooded or cold-blooded?	warm-blooded (constant body temp.)	cold-blooded (body temp. changes)	warm-blooded (constant body temp.)	cold-blooded (body temp. changes)	cold-blooded (body temp. changes)
Breathing Do the animals in this group breathe air (lungs) or water (gills)?	lungs (breathe the oxygen in air)	gills (breathe the oxygen in water)	lungs (breathe the oxygen in air)	lungs (breathe the oxygen in air)	both (gills when born; lungs develop later)
Birth Do the young hatch from eggs or are they born alive?	hatch from eggs	hatch from eggs (exception: sharks)	born alive (exceptions: platypus and echidna)	hatch from eggs	hatch from eggs
Milk Do the young drink milk from their mother?	mothers do not feed milk to their young	mothers do not feed milk to their young	mothers <u>do</u> produce milk for their young	mothers do not feed milk to their young	mothers do not feed milk to their young
Backbone Do animals in this group have a skeleton with a backbone?	yes; all vertebrates have a skeleton with a backbone	yes; all vertebrates have a skeleton with a backbone	yes; all vertebrates have a skeleton with a backbone	yes; all vertebrates have a skeleton with a backbone	yes; all vertebrates have a skeleton with a backbone
Examples List some animals in this group.	robin, penguin, ostrich, eagle	shark, bass, clown fish, goldfish	horse, human, whale, mouse	turtle, lizard, snake, tortoise	frog, toad, salamander