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# Vertebrate Thinking Questions



1. Why isn't a frog a reptile? Give specific reasons.

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2. Can a dolphin drown in the ocean? Explain.

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3. Are bats mammals or birds? Explain your answer.

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4. Hannah says, "Most warm-blooded animals take care of their young. Most cold-blooded animals do not." Is she correct? Explain.

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# ANSWER KEY

## Vertebrate Thinking Questions



1. Why isn't a frog a reptile? Give specific reasons.

**Frogs are amphibians. They do not have scales and don't lay eggs on land like reptiles. Frogs go through metamorphosis (egg-tadpole-adult) and reptiles do not.**

2. Can a dolphin drown in the ocean? Explain.

**Yes. Dolphins are mammals, which means they have lungs and breathe air. Even though dolphins can hold their breath for a long time, they can't stay underwater forever without coming up to the surface to breathe.**

3. Are bats mammals or birds? Explain your answer.

**Bats are mammals. They have hair, not feathers. Their babies do not hatch from eggs; they are born alive. Bats do not have beaks or bills.**

4. Hannah says, "Most warm-blooded animals take care of their young. Most cold-blooded animals do not." Is she correct? Explain.

**Hannah is correct. Mammals and birds are the only warm-blooded animals. Mammals provide milk for their young. Birds incubate their eggs to hatch them. Mammals and birds usually stay with their mothers for awhile before going off on their own. Most reptiles, amphibians, and fish simply lay their eggs and leave.**