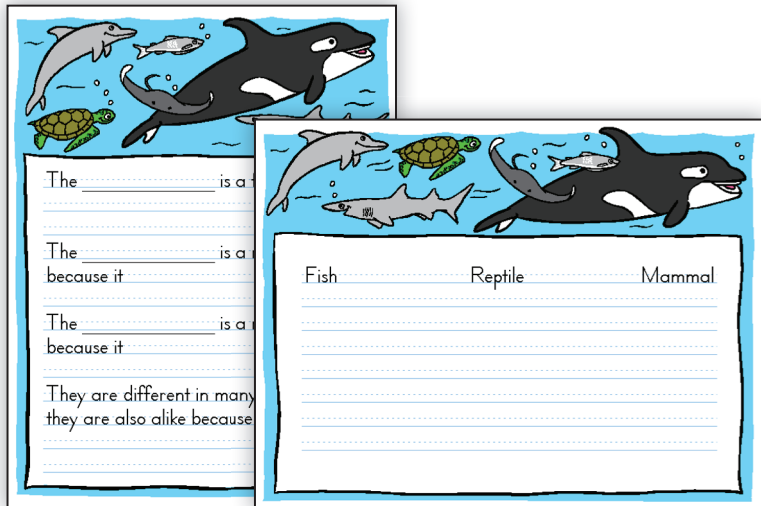


Fish, Reptile, or Mammal?

Goals

- To understand not all marine animals are fish
- To identify similarities and differences among marine animals
- To classify marine animals



The _____ is a _____

The _____ is a _____ because it _____

The _____ is a _____ because it _____

They are different in many ways but they are also alike because _____

Fish _____ Reptile _____ Mammal _____

Overview: Students learn how marine animals are classified and group them as fish, mammals, and reptiles.

Materials

- “Fish, Reptile, or Mammal 1” template
- “Fish, Reptile, or Mammal 2” template
- Pictures of a variety of marine animals including fish, reptiles, and mammals
- Print and electronic resources on ocean animals

Directions

1. If necessary, begin by reviewing animal classification. Give students copies of the “Fish, Reptile, or Mammal 1” template. As a class, brainstorm characteristics of fish, reptiles, and mammals. Ask students to list characteristics in the proper column. Include characteristics like fur, scales, fins, flippers, claws, backbone, skeleton, exoskeleton, lungs, gills, warm-blooded, cold-blooded, hatch from eggs, live birth, mother feeds babies milk.
2. Next, give students fresh copies of the “Fish, Reptile, or Mammal 1” template. Show students pictures of a variety of ocean animals. For each picture, have students identify the animal and tell whether it is a fish, reptile, or mammal.



Directions (*continued*)

Ask them to give reasons for their classification. When agreement is reached, have students write the name of the animal in the proper column.

3. When students have finished, ask them how the animals within each group are similar to each other. How are they different from animals in other groups?
4. Give students copies of the “Fish, Reptile, or Mammal 2” template. Let them choose an animal from each of the three classes – fish, reptile, and mammal. Then have them research their three animals and complete the activity sheet. At the bottom, ask them to tell at least one way the animals, though different, are still similar.
5. Display student research sheets or bind them together in a book called “Fish, Reptile, or Mammal”.

Stationery Studio Extensions

- Ask students to draw a picture of an animal in its habitat. Describe the habitat and tell what the animal eats and what eats it, how it moves, and to which class it belongs.
- Have students compare a marine reptile or mammal with a land animal from the same class. How are they alike and how are they different?
- As a class, create an Ocean Animals Alphabet book. Make a list of animals A to Z, and assign or let each student choose an animal to research and write about.