

RESOURCES CULTURE

THE WORLD OF ANIMALS

ADULT RESOURCES

DEFINE

a) Vertebrates: An animal of a large group distinguished by the possession of a backbone or spinal column, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fishes

b) Invertebrates: Any animal that lacks a vertebral column, or backbone, in contrast to the cartilaginous or bony vertebrates

FIVE CLASSES OF VERTEBRATES:

1. FISH: A limbless cold vertebrate animal with gills and fins living wholly in water.

2. AMPHIBIANS: A cold-blooded vertebrate animal of a class that comprises the frogs, newts, salamanders, toads and caecilians.

3. REPTILES: A vertebrate animal of a class that includes snakes, lizards, crocodiles, turtles, and tortoises. They are distinguished by having a dry scaly skin and typically laying soft-shelled eggs on a land.

4. MAMMALS: A warm-blooded vertebrate animal of a class that is distinguished by the possession of hair or fur, females that secrete milk for the nourishment of the young.

5. BIRDS: A warm blooded egg-laying vertebrate animal distinguished by the possession of feathers, wings, a beak, and typically by being able to fly.

INTERESTING FACTS:

FISHES:

a) Jawless fishes- Lampreys, Hagfish

Lampreys are jawless fishes; it has a toothed, funnel like sucking mouth.

Hagfish are eel shaped, slime-producing marine fish, and they are the only known living animals that have a skull.

b) Cartilaginous fishes: Sharks, rays, skates

Sharks do not have bones, they have good eyesight and sharks can go into a trance.

Rays: they have broad fins that run the full length of their bodies.

RESOURCES CULTURE

Skates: These rays come in a number of different shapes and sizes, their bodies are flat and wide.

c) Bony fishes: Tuna, sardines, salmon

Tuna are remarkable and impressive wild animals, their Atlantic blue fin can reach ten feet in length and weigh as much as 2000 pounds, and they also swim incredible distance as they migrate.

Sardines are an excellent source of vitamin B-12. This vitamin helps your cardiovascular system and gives you energy.

A female spring Chinook salmon can carry more than 4000 eggs. The oldest salmon fossil found is 50 million years old.

INTERESTING FACTS

AMPHIBIANS

- **LIZARD**
- **Detaching Tail** – When attacked, many lizards can completely shed their tails at a specific fracture zone. The detached tail continues to wriggle on the ground to distract the attacker. This behavior is called “autotomy.”
- **Communication** – Bearded dragons communicate with each other by waving their arms and bobbing their heads.
- **Senses** – Lizards smell their environment by licking the air.
- **Amazing Defense** – Some horned lizards defend themselves by squirting jets of blood from their eyes. They can squirt the blood up to 5 feet (1.5 m).
- **Bipedal Locomotion** – Several terrestrial lizards can run on their hind legs (bipedal locomotion). Basilisk lizards are able to run across the top of the water for distances of about 15 ft (4.5 m).

HABITAT Most lizards live in warm regions, though various species can be found from the southern tip of South America, to quite near the Arctic Circle. They inhabit areas with a wide range of altitudes, from sea-level to heights of 16,500 feet (5,000 m).

DIET: CARNIVOROUS

REPTILE

SNAKE This creature has an incredible variety of traits and adaptations make it unique. Learn what makes the Snake so interesting below.

- **Venom vs. Poison** – Some species have hollow fangs that they use to inject venom, which helps incapacitate their prey. This is quite different from poison, which certain animals have in or on their skin, which causes harm when another animal bites or eats it.
- **Poisonous Snakes** – In most cases, if you call a Snake “poisonous” you would be incorrect. However, there are some that actually secrete poison! The *Rhabdophis* genus of keelback Snakes is both venomous and poisonous. Some species of [garter Snakes](#) also retain the poison of the prey that they eat.
- **Titanoboa** – One extinct species actually reached terrifying lengths. Archeologists have found fossils of the [titanoboa](#) at lengths up to 42 ft. long!
-
- **Venomous Volume** – Of the thousands of different species, researchers estimate that just 15% produce venom. Even if a species has venom, that doesn’t mean that they can actually pose a danger to humans. Scientists believe that just a small percentage of the world’s population is dangerous to man.

HABITAT

Different species live in a wide variety of habitats. You can find some species in the driest desert, and some in the wettest tropical rainforest. They also live in woodlands, grasslands, meadows, forests, taiga, and virtually any habitat that isn’t arctic or sub-arctic. Many also live in close proximity to humans, in areas like farms, parks, gardens, and even suburbs. They utilize the rats and mice that thrive in areas with high human populations

DIET: CARNIVOROUS

MAMMALS:

This whale is one of the most unique species on the planet. They have a number of distinctive characteristics that set them apart from other animals, other marine mammals, and even other whales.

Blue Whales are the Largest Animal ... Ever

Blue Whales Eat Krill

Whales Can be Identified by Their Spouts

HABITAT The blue whale lives in every ocean in the world, this means it inhabits every aquatic habitat. They have been found in the Arctic, Tropical, Subtropical, and Temperate seas.

BIRDS: COCKATIEL

These little birds are charismatic, colorful, and vocal. For this reason, they are popular household pets. Learn more about this interesting species below.

- **Captivating Colors** – Cockatiel breeders select birds based on interesting colors and patterns. Through selective breeding, we now have many different colors, including all white, all grey, pied, all yellow (or "lutino"), cinnamon, and more.
- **Creative Crest** – Like many [cockatoo](#) species, these birds have feathers on their heads, which are known as "crests." Their crests are usually bright yellow, and they use them to express emotion. Excited birds stick their crests straight up, relaxed birds lay their crests back, and frightened birds flatten their crests against their head.
- **Serenading Sons** – Males of this species are more vocal than their female counterparts. Pet Cockatiels learn to sing or even talk. Males sing and talk more frequently, and learn more sounds, than females.
- **Monogamous Mates** – Pairs of Cockatiels are monogamous, which means they mate for life. Not only do pairs continue to breed season after season, but they also remain together outside

of breeding season. They continue to preen and socialize with one another even when they rejoin the rest of the flock.

Habitat of the Cockatiel

This species lives in a variety of different habitats within their range. Their favorite ecosystems are those with water bodies, like lakes or rivers, in close proximity to open areas or woodlands.

Grasslands and savannas are their preferred habitats, but they also live in open woodland. They live in inland habitats, usually in arid or semi-arid regions with low rainfall.

Diet of the Cockatiel

These birds are herbivores, and feed primarily on plants. The vast majority of their diet consists of seeds, though they do eat fruits, berries, flowers, and more.

While they fly and roost in trees, these birds forage on the ground. They usually eat seeds from grasses, weeds, trees, and shrubs. Some also eat insects or invertebrates if they come across them.

SOURCE: www.animals.net

