Animal Data

**AMPHIBIANS**

**B – Blue Poison Frog**

[A group of poison frogs is called an "army."]

Area:  Central and South America

Habitat:  Rain forest

Food:  Ants, termites, centipedes, beetles

Size:  1 inch

Babies:  Tadpoles

**C – Caecilian**

[Caecilians have toxic glands in their skin that sometimes protect them from being eaten by other animals.]

Area:  Central Africa, Southeast Asia, southern Mexico to Argentina

Habitat:  Loose soil and ground liter in tropical forests, or in rivers or streams

Food:  Worms, termites, beetle pupae, snails, small snakes, frogs, lizards

Size:  From 3 1/2 inches to about 5 feet long, depending on the species

Babies:  In some species, larvae hatch from eggs then grow and change into adult form. Other types of caecilians give birth to live young that develop inside the mother before being born.

**F – Fire Salamander**

[The fire salamander is the only amphibian that does not hatch from an egg. Instead, the babies develop inside the mother's body.]

Area:  Europe, Africa, and Asia

Habitat:  Forests

Food:  Insects, earthworms, small frogs, spiders, and slugs

Size:  Up to 8 inches long (about as long as a table knife)

Babies:  Fully formed larvae or fully formed salamander, depending on subspecies

**W – Waxy Tree Frog**

[Waxy tree frogs make a leaf nest in which they lay their eggs. The nest hangs over water and when the eggs hatch, the tadpoles drop into the water where they develop into frogs.]

Area:  Central and South America

Habitat:  Trees and vegetation near freshwater ponds and lagoons in savannas, shrubland, and forested areas.

Food:  Insects

Size:  3 inches

Babies:  Tadpoles

**Y – Yellow Legged Frog**

[Water is absorbed through the mountain yellow-legged frog's skin. It never has to drink water!]

Area:  Southern California

Habitat:  Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains: lakes, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, sunny riverbanks; In mountains of Southern California, rocky streams in narrow canyons and in the chaparral belt.

Food:  Beetles, ants, bees, wasps, flies, and dragonflies

Size:  1 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches long

Babies:  Tadpoles hatched from eggs laid in shallow water.

**BIRDS**

**A – Anna’s Hummingbird**

[A hummingbird's heart beats 1,260 times a minute!]

Area:  West Coast of North America, from southern Canada to northern Baja California, Mexico

Habitat:  Chaparral near open woodland, urban and suburban areas

Food:  Flower nectar, small insects, and tree sap

Size:  About 4 inches long

Babies:  Usually 2 eggs are laid; chicks hatch after about 23 days.

**B – Bald Eagle**

**[**The bald eagle isn't really bald! Its head is covered with short, white feathers. The term "bald" may be from the Old English word "balde" that meant white.]

Area: Canada, United States, and northwest Mexico

Habitat: Coastlines, lakes, rivers, swamps, and marshes

Food: Fish, rabbits, squirrels, other birds, and even young deer

Size: 29 to 42 inches long

Babies: 1 to 3 eggs are laid; eaglets hatch 35 days later

**Bee eater**

[Before eating its meal, a bee eater removes the sting by hitting and rubbing the insect on a hard surface to extract most of the venom.]

Area:  Africa, Asia, southern Europe, Australia, and New Guinea

Habitat:  Burrows tunnelled into the side of sandy banks

Food:  Insects, especially bees and wasps

Size:  6 to 14 inches long (depending on species)

Babies:  Eggs are laid in clutches of 2 to 9 and hatch after about 20 days.

**Emu**

**[**Emu eggs are dark green and are the same size and color as an avocado!]

Area:  Australia

Habitat:  Grassy plains and open forests

Food:  Seeds, leaves, insects, small reptiles, and fruit

Size:  5 to 6 feet tall

Babies:  Brown-and-cream striped chicks are able to feed themselves but stay with their father for about 18 months.

**Caribbean Flamingo**

**[**The Caribbean flamingo is the "brightest" of all flamingos, showing its true colors of red, pink, or orange on its legs, bill, and face.]

Area:  South America and the Caribbean; small population in the Galápagos Islands

Habitat:  Large shallow lakes and lagoons

Food:  Brine flies, shrimp, and mollusks

Size:  31 to 57 inches tall, weighs up to 6 pounds

Babies:  Usually 1 egg is laid, from which a chick hatches after about 30 days.

**MAMMALS**

**C – Cheetah**

[Cheetahs cannot roar, but they do growl, hiss, purr and chirp.]

Area:  Southern and eastern Africa

Habitat:  Savanna

Food:  Antelope

Size:  About 4 feet long, with a 2-1/2-foot long tail

Babies:  Cheetah cubs have a silvery mane on their neck and shoulders that disappears as they get older.

**G – Gorilla**

[No two gorilla noses are alike. Scientists use close-up photographs of gorilla faces to tell who is who.]

Area:  Central Africa

Habitat:  Lowland tropical rain forests

Food:  Fruits, seeds, leaves, and insects

Size:  5 to 6 feet tall

Babies:  A baby gorilla stays close to its mother and sleeps in her nest until it is 4 to 6 years old.

**L – Lion**

[When one lion yawns or roars, the rest of the pride often does the same!]

Area: Africa, south of the Sahara Desert

Habitat:  Savannas with thick brush

Food:  Antelope, zebra, and other hoofed animals

Size:  Males are 5 to 8 feet long, females are 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 feet long

Babies:  Cubs can nurse from any female in the pride, not just their own mother.

**P – Panda**

[They seem pretty quiet, but giant pandas can bleat, roar, growl, and honk.]

Area:  China

Habitat:  Forests

Food:  Bamboo, grasses, bulbs, some insects and fruit

Size:  5 feet long

Babies:  Cubs are born hairless and with their eyes closed.

**Z – Zebra**

[Underneath its hair, a zebra's skin is black.]

Area:  Eastern and southern Africa

Habitat:  Grasslands and semi-deserts

Food:  Grass and leaves

Size:  4 to 5 feet tall at the shoulder

Babies:  Foals can walk just 20 minutes after they are born.

**REPTILES**

**A – Alligator**

[The name "alligator" comes from the Spanish el legarto, meaning "the lizard."]

Area:  Southeastern United States

Habitat:  Swamps, marshes, lakes, and slow-moving rivers

Food:  Fish, turtles, mammals, and birds

Size:  Up to 15 feet long

Babies:  When they hatch from their eggs, alligators are 10 inches long and black with yellow stripes and splotches.

**Anaconda**

[A group of anacondas is called a "bed" or "knot."]

Area:  South America

Habitat:  Rain forests and wetlands

Food:  Wild pigs, deer, birds, turtles, capybaras, caimans, and jaguars

Size:  Up to 30 feet (almost as long as a school bus!)

Babies:  Measure 2 feet long at birth and take care of themselves from the start

**P – Python**

[Pythons have fangs, but do not produce venom.]

Area:  Africa, Madagascar, Southeast Asia, and Australia

Habitat:  Rain forest, grassland and savanna, woodland, and swamps

Food:  Rodents, birds, lizards, monkeys, pigs, or antelope, depending on the size of the snake

Size:  23 inches to 33 feet, depending on the species

Babies:  Hatch from eggs and take care of themselves from the start

**S – Sungazer**

[During the winter, sungazer lizards hibernate in their burrows.]

Area:  South Africa

Habitat:  Grassland and desert

Food:  Mostly insects, sometimes mice

Size:  Up to 15 1/2 inches

Babies:  Young are born live, measuring 4 to 6 inches long

**T – Tortoise**

[These tortoises can live a long time. Some of those at the San Diego Zoo are more than 100 years old!]

Area:  everywhere on earth like Galápagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador

Habitat:  Flat, grassy areas and rocky, volcanic outcroppings

Food:  Cactus, fruit, flowers, leaves, and grasses

Size:  Up to 6 feet long and 4 to 5 feet across

Babies:  A hatchling weighs about 3 ounces at birth, but can grow to 500 pounds.

**FISH**

G – Guitarfish

* Goatfish

M – Moonfish

* Moray eels

S – Shark

* Stingray

T – Tarpon

* Tripletail
* Toadfish