

# Animal Classification — Vertebrates Review and Sorting

Base Sheet

Reviewing the five vertebrate groups (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians) through sorting activities with picture cards and real-world examples.

## What You Need:

- Animal picture cards (15-20 animals)
- Two category labels: Vertebrate / Invertebrate
- Work mat
- Science journal

## Steps:

1. 'Today we're going to sort animals into two BIG groups!'
2. 'Feel your back. Can you feel the bumpy bones? That's your BACKBONE — also called your SPINE.'
3. 'Animals WITH a backbone are called VERTEBRATES. Animals WITHOUT a backbone are called INVERTEBRATES.'
4. 'Show animal pictures. Dog — does it have a backbone? YES! Vertebrate. Jellyfish — backbone? NO! Invertebrate.'
5. 'Vertebrate examples: fish, frog, bird, cat, snake. 'See? Fish, amphibians, birds, mammals, reptiles all have backbones!'
6. 'Invertebrate examples: insect, spider, worm, snail, jellyfish, crab. 'These creatures have no bones at all, or they have a hard SHELL on the outside!'
7. 'Child sorts 15-20 animal pictures into two categories.'
8. 'Most animals on Earth are invertebrates — especially insects!'

## Work Space:

