Surprising Animal Clues

Use body clues to sort animals into groups.

L.2.1.4 "Construct a scientific argument for classifying vertebrates that have unusual characteristics, such as bats, penguins, snakes, salamanders, dolphins, and duck-billed platypuses (i.e., bats have wings, yet they are mammals)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one clue that helps you name each animal's group. Circle the group word that goes with each clue.

Look Past the Surprise

1. A bat flies over a pond. Its wings may look like a bird's wings, but a bat has fur and feeds its babies milk. Those clues show that the bat is a mammal, not a bird. Birds have feathers.
2. A penguin cannot fly, but it has feathers, so it is a bird. A dolphin swims like a fish, but it breathes air and feeds its baby milk. Milk is a clue that the dolphin is a mammal.
3. A platypus lays eggs, but it has fur and feeds its babies milk. It is a mammal. A snake has dry scales and is a reptile. A salamander has moist skin and is an amphibian.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A bat has wings. Why is it a mammal instead of a bird?

2. Why is a penguin a bird even though it cannot fly?

3. A dolphin swims like a fish. What clue shows that it is a mammal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you find a new animal that swims and has dry scales. Write two sentences to name its group and explain why swimming alone does not tell you its group.

ANSWER KEY

Surprising Animal Clues

GRADE 2 · L.2.1.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one clue that helps you name each animal's group. Circle the group word that goes with each clue. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A bat has wings. Why is it a mammal instead of a bird?	**A bat has fur and feeds its babies milk, which are clues that it is a mammal.**
2	Why is a penguin a bird even though it cannot fly?	**A penguin has feathers, which are a clue that it is a bird.**
3	A dolphin swims like a fish. What clue shows that it is a mammal?	**A dolphin feeds its baby milk.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would put this animal with reptiles because it has dry scales, like a snake. Swimming alone does not tell its group because a dolphin swims, but it is a mammal.

Accept a reptile classification supported by dry scales. The explanation should show that swimming is not enough to decide an animal's group.