Animal Clue Hunt

Use body clues to sort pond visitors.

L.2.1 "Students will demonstrate an understanding of the classification of animals based on physical characteristics. Compare and sort groups of animals with backbones (vertebrates) from groups of animals without backbones (invertebrates)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the body clues that help you sort the animals, and circle each animal group name.

Who Visits the Pond?

1. At a pond, a beetle crawls past a frog. The beetle has no backbone, so it is an invertebrate. The frog has a backbone, so it is a vertebrate. Vertebrates can be sorted into smaller groups by their body parts.

2. Nearby, a bat flies over the water. It has wings, but it also has fur and feeds milk to its babies. Those clues make it a mammal. A penguin has feathers and a beak, so it is a bird, even though it cannot fly.

3. A salamander has smooth, damp skin. It is an amphibian. A snake has dry scales and is a reptile. Both have backbones, but their skin helps tell their groups apart. A fish also has a backbone, but it breathes in water with gills.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which pond visitor is a vertebrate, and which is an invertebrate? What clue tells you?

2. Why is the flying bat a mammal, while the penguin that cannot fly is a bird?

3. How does their skin help you tell a salamander from a snake? Name each animal's group.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A dolphin has a backbone and fins, breathes air with lungs, and feeds milk to its babies. In two sentences, name its vertebrate group and explain why its fins do not make it a fish.

ANSWER KEY

Animal Clue Hunt

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the body clues that help you sort the animals, and circle each animal group name. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which pond visitor is a vertebrate, and which is an invertebrate? What clue tells you?	**The frog is a vertebrate because it has a backbone. The beetle is an invertebrate because it has no backbone.**
2	Why is the flying bat a mammal, while the penguin that cannot fly is a bird?	**The bat has fur and feeds milk to its babies. The penguin has feathers and a beak.**
3	How does their skin help you tell a salamander from a snake? Name each animal's group.	**The salamander is an amphibian with smooth, damp skin. The snake is a reptile with dry scales.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A dolphin is a mammal because it feeds milk to its babies. Its fins do not make it a fish because fish breathe in water with gills, but dolphins breathe air with lungs.

Accept answers that use the stated body clues to support each group. For the open task, the response should name mammals and explain why fins alone are not enough to make a dolphin a fish.