



Curious Creatures

Thursday 27th January 2022

LO: To classify creatures based on
their characteristics.

Groups of Animals

In Year 4 you learnt about different types of animals. These animals can be classified into two groups, vertebrates and invertebrates.

Talk to your partner about the difference between the two groups.

Could you remember the difference? Vertebrates have a backbone, and invertebrates don't have a backbone.

The two groups can be split into further, smaller groups. Groups of invertebrates include insects, arachnids, annelids, molluscs, crustaceans and echinoderms.

What groups can vertebrates be sorted into? Talk to your partner about your ideas.

How many did you think of? Vertebrates can be sorted into mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.

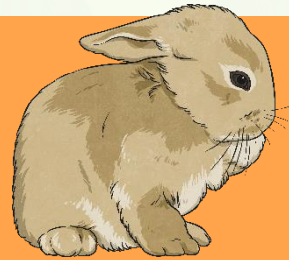


Watch this video to remind you...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITrRMiQB8g4>

Groups of Animals

There are lots of different groups of animals! Can you think of an example animal for each group? Think about what you learnt in Year 4. Use the pictures to help you.



mammals



arachnids



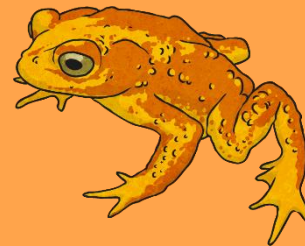
fish



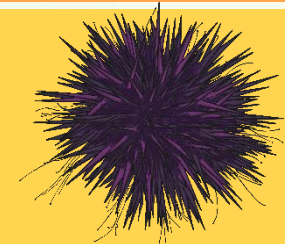
insects



molluscs



amphibians



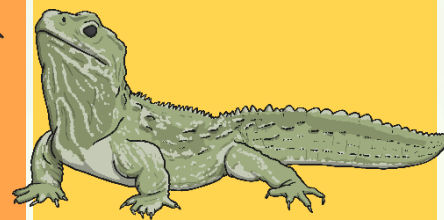
echinoderms



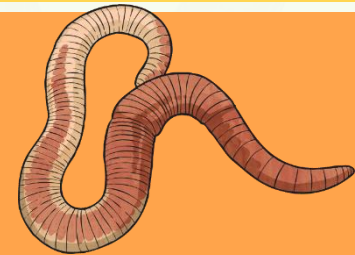
birds



crustaceans



reptiles



annelids












Identifying Characteristics

Each group of animals is defined by a set of characteristics. The animals in a particular group share similar characteristics, and are different to the animals in other groups. Can you recall any of the characteristics of each group of animals?

Cut out the statements on the Characteristics Activity Sheet and stick them on the table, on the sheet, to show the characteristics of each group of animals.

Animal Characteristics

Cut and stick the descriptions of characteristics with the correct group of animals. Add an example of each type of animal.

Mammals		
Birds		
Fish		
Reptiles		
Amphibians		
Insects		
Arachnids		
Annelids		
Molluscs		
Crustaceans		
Echinoderms		

...gs to breathe

...shell. Some water and

...gills to adults. They

...ome can fly,

...e used for 4 legs for

...ade from 3 nose on their

...he. They

...ve arms or fins their

...nts. Some of their skin

...red milk to

...have a with crawling

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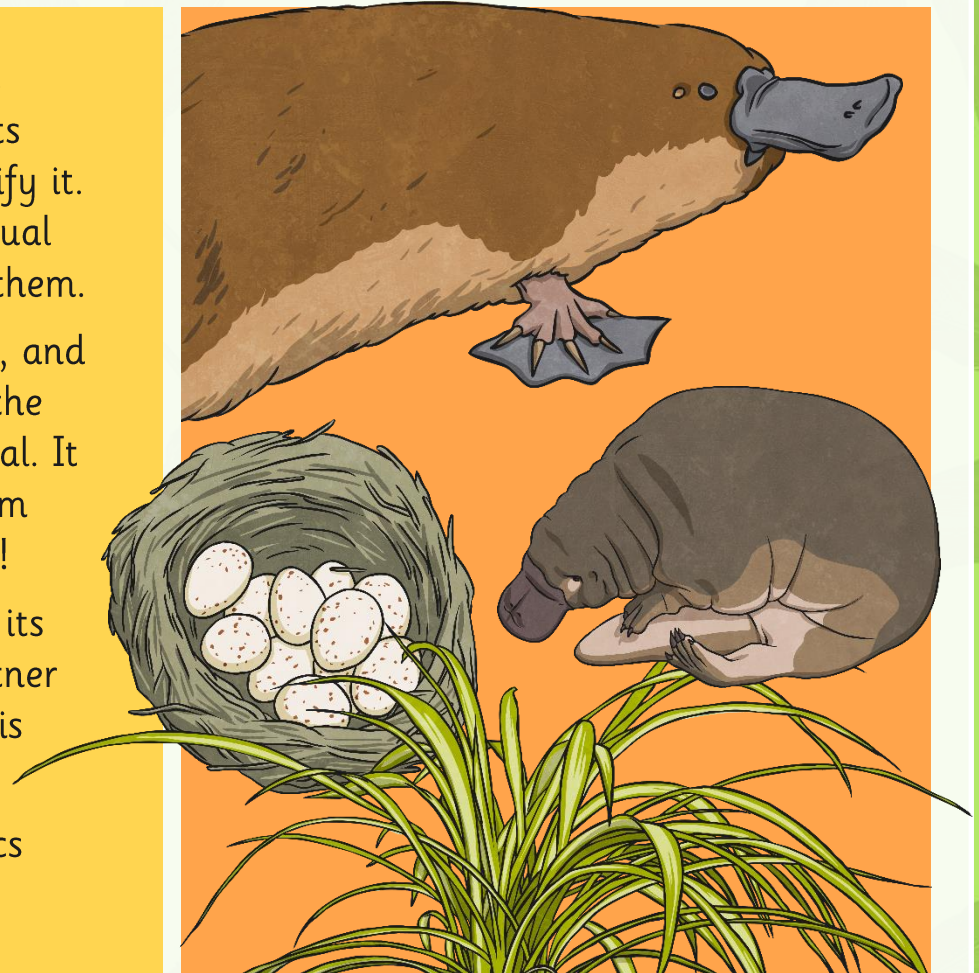
Curious Creatures

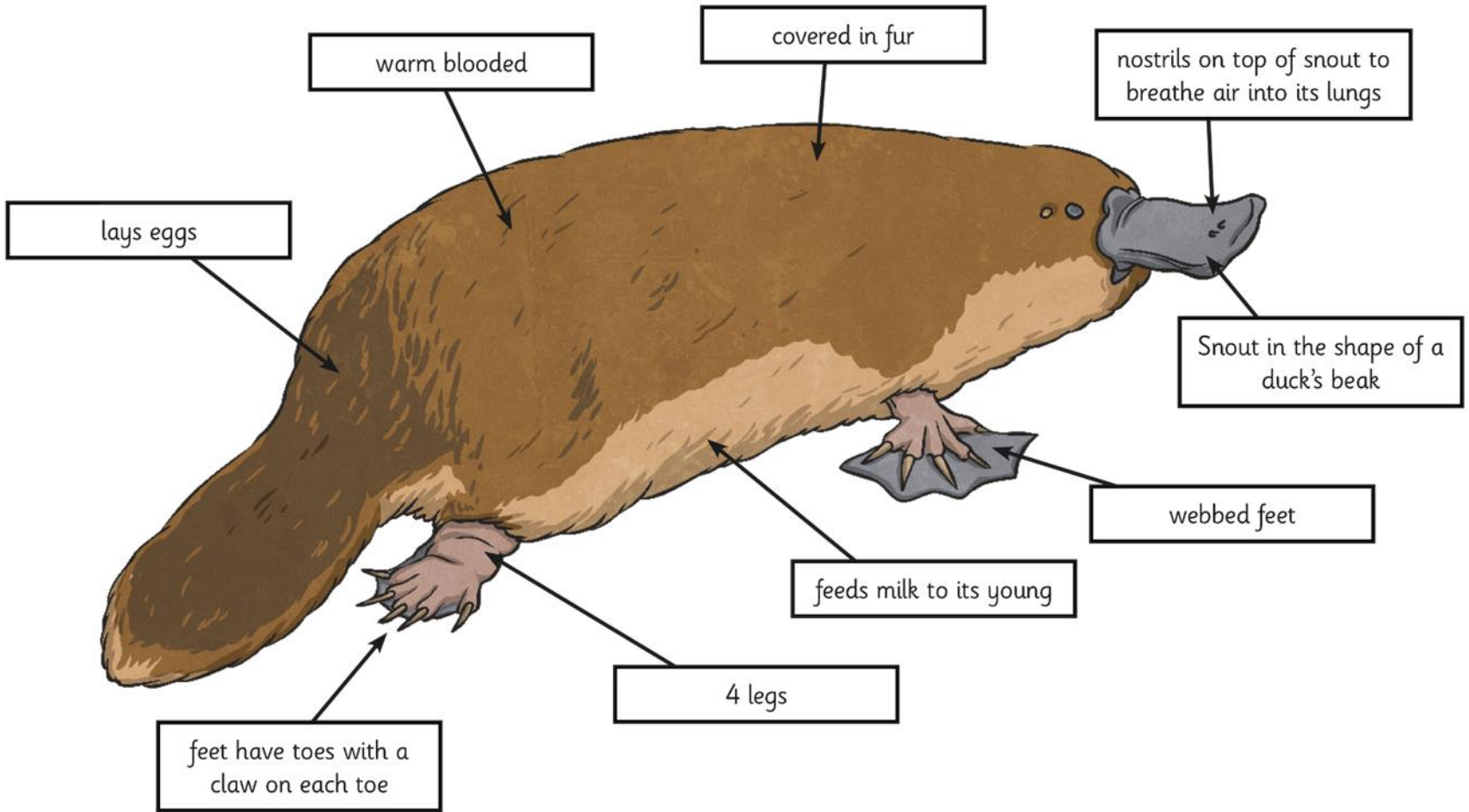
When a new species of animal is discovered, taxonomists observe its characteristics to decide how to classify it. However, some animals are so unusual that taxonomists struggle to classify them.

The platypus was discovered in 1797, and scientists around the world joined the attempt to classify this unusual animal. It seemed to have characteristics from several different types of animals!

Look at the Platypus Diagram and its characteristics and talk to your partner about which groups of animals this curious creature could fit into.

Use your completed Characteristics Activity Sheet to help you.





Click me to hide!

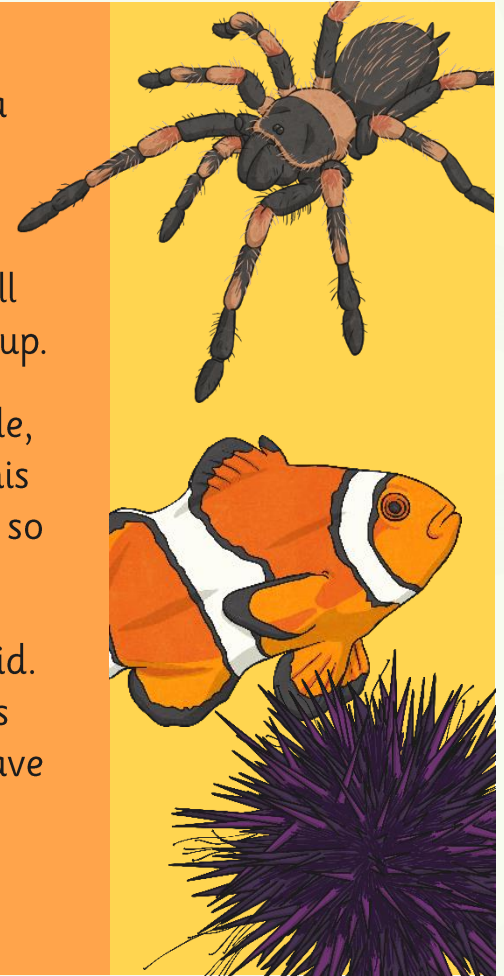
Curious Creatures Activity

Imagine you have discovered a new creature. You will draw a picture of your animal and create a fact file detailing its characteristics.

Before you design it, think about what group of animals it will belong to. Make sure you include the characteristics of that group.

Once you have designed your animal and completed its fact file, you will swap with a partner who will classify your animal. This means it needs to be clear which group of animals it is part of, so that your partner is able to classify it correctly.

For example, you may want to design a new species of arachnid. It should have 4 pairs of jointed legs and be cold blooded. Its front pair of legs may be used to hold its prey. It should not have antennae. Your new animal could then be any shape, size or colour as long as it displays these characteristics.



Curious Creatures Activity

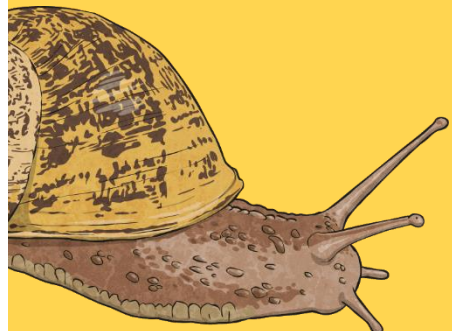

Use the Curious Creatures Activity Sheet to design your animal and complete its fact file.

Curious Creatures

Name of animal _____

Diagram of animal	Distribution (countries it lives in): _____ Habitat: _____ Cold or warm blooded: _____ Appearance (including its skin, body parts and skeleton) _____ _____ _____ Reproduction: _____ _____ Respiration (breathing) _____ _____
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This space is for your partner: Can you classify this new creature based on its characteristics? Give reasons for your classification.



Share and Classify

Now that you have designed your new animal, swap your activity sheet with a partner.

Look at their animal's characteristics, such as whether it is warm or cold blooded, how many legs it has, how it breathes and how it reproduces.

Use your Characteristics Activity Sheet to help you classify your partner's animal and complete your classification in the space provided on your partner's Curious Creatures Activity Sheet.

Did you classify their curious creature accurately?

