

ANIMAL DIVERSITY AND ADAPTATION

Organ Systems of Vertebrates

Animals have organ systems just like you do! Here are some examples of the **systems that animals and humans have in common**:

Integumentary system - Integumentary is just a fancy word for skin! Animals do not have skin quite like humans do. Instead they have tougher skin, feathers, fur, or scales. This outer coat helps protect the animal's insides and keeps the animal protected from weather and environmental conditions, such as very cold temperatures or very dry air.

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Circulatory system - The circulatory system of an animal keeps the blood moving throughout an animal's body. Animals have veins, capillaries, and arteries just like you!

Respiratory system - The respiratory system allows animals to take in oxygen (which they need to survive) and breath out carbon dioxide.

Digestive system - The digestive system breaks down the food animals eat so that animals can break their food down into energy! Animals need energy to move around and carry out their life processes.

Excretory System – This system allows animals to rid their body of waste.

Reproductive system – This is an easy to figure out...it enables animals to produce offspring.

Immune system - The immune system protects animals against sicknesses, infections, and diseases.

Skeletal System - The skeletal system consists of the bones and cartilage that supports an animal's body parts.

Lesson Checkpoint:

What is one organ system you have in common with an animal and what is the function of that system?

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✓ have backbones

- ✓ bigger than invertebrates
- ✓ move faster than invertebrates

Characteristics of Invertebrates

- ✓ do NOT have backbones
- ✓ much smaller than vertebrates
- ✓ move much slower than vertebrates

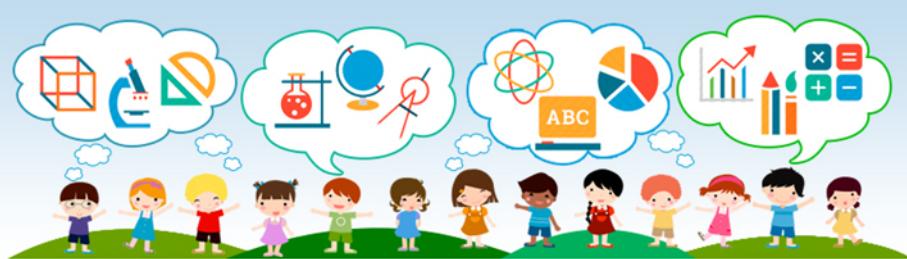
**Lesson Checkpoint: What is the difference between
a vertebrate and an invertebrate?**

Animal Adaptations

Adaptations are traits that animals have that help them survive in their environments.

Adaptations can be physical or behavioral. Examples of a **physical** trait are the thickness of an animal's fur in the winter (which helps the animal survive cold winters), the shape of a bird's beak (which helps them get food and build nests), and even the shape of an animal's ears (bats have large ears to hear well since they rely on their hearing to fly). Animals depend on their physical features to help them find and eat food, to build shelters, to attract mates, and to protect themselves.

Behavior adaptations are activities that animals DO, which help them survive in their environment. Behavior adaptations can be learned behaviors that animals make to survive in their environment.



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Can you guess what adaptation an animal uses to blend in with their surroundings? Animals use this adaptation to hide from predators and to sneak up on their prey!

Migration is when animals move from one area to another for a certain period of time or season. Animals migrate in order to get to a place where the temperature allows for the animal to survive and find food.

Hibernation is also an adaptation! When an animal goes into a deep sleep, it is hibernating. During this time the animal's body temperature drops significantly. The animal's breathing and heartbeat slow down.

What is THAT animal?

It is a tigon, which is a **cross-breed** between a tiger and a lion.

Crossbreeding is when two animals (or plants) of different breeds and species reproduce and create an offspring. Cross-breeding does not happen in wild, it only occurs with human intervention.

Hybrids are the animals that are produced as a result of cross-breeding. A mule is a hybrid. It is a cross-breed of a donkey and a horse.

Lesson Checkpoint: What is a hybrid?



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