

Guide to OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

Every good animal fairy nurtures nature by helping our animal friends. Here are a few fun facts to discover about some of the animals you may find in your world.



MAMMALS

Did you know that humans are mammals? So are horses, rabbits, whales and many other animals. So, what exactly is a mammal?

- A mammal is a warm-blooded animal.
- A mammal is a type of animal that has hair and feeds milk to its young.
- Mammals have sweat glands and can either sweat or pant to stay cool when temperatures are high.
- Mammals have the most highly developed nervous systems of all animals.



Rodents

From hamsters to capybaras, rodents are the single largest group of mammals. Here are some fun facts about rodents:

- About 1/2 of all mammals are rodents. This includes everything from mice to squirrels and even porcupines and beavers.
- Rodents have two front teeth called incisors which are always growing. These teeth are kept short by gnawing on the different foods that make up their diet.
- Rodents include jumpers like jerboas, swimmers like muskrats, and diggers like prairie dogs and groundhogs.
- Rodents can have bushy tails like squirrels, naked tails like rats, or armored tails like the armadillo.

YOU CAN HELP

YOU CAN HELP ALL ANIMALS by recycling and buying Green products like recycled notebook paper and pencils. Consider bamboo or organic cotton bags as an alternative to book bags and disposable lunch bags!

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BIRDS

Have you ever wished you could fly like a bird? Here are some fun facts about our fine, feathered friends:

- Birds are warm-blooded animals that lay eggs and can be found all over the world.
- Birds are the only animals that have feathers. They are used for flight and to keep the bird warm.
- Birds shed, or molt, their feathers every year. This allows them to replace worn feathers.
- Even though not all birds fly, they have wings, hollow bones and a beak instead of teeth, which helps them be light-weight for flight.



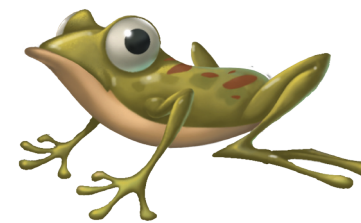
YOU CAN HELP

YOU CAN CREATE HABITATS for birds in your own backyard by simply hanging up a bird house or providing a bird bath for them to enjoy.

AMPHIBIANS

Frogs, salamanders, toads and newts -- what makes all of them "Amphibians?"

- Amphibians are cold-blooded animals.
- Amphibians live two lives in one; most spend part of their lives in water as tadpoles and then metamorph to live on land.
- Amphibians have porous, permeable, skin. This allows oxygen to pass through their skin so that they can breathe underwater.
- Amphibians include more than just frogs and toads, they also include salamanders, newts, and caecilians (which are legless amphibians.)



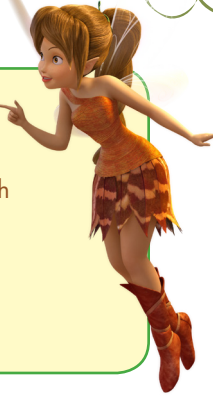
YOU CAN HELP

YOU CAN HELP AMPHIBIANS by keeping waterways clean. Participate in a river, lake or ocean cleanup and be sure not to litter.

FASCINATING FUN FACTS!

THE WORLD'S SMALLEST MAMMAL is the Bumblebee Bat, weighing a mere 2 grams which is less than a penny!

THE WORLD'S LARGEST ANIMAL is the Blue Whale, averaging 80 feet in length! This is the length of two school buses!



FISH

Have you ever watched fish swim in a pond, creek, or aquarium? Here are some fun facts about our finned friends:



- Most fish have two pairs of fins, which help them move in the water.
- Fish breathe by passing water through their gills, so that they can remove oxygen from the water.
- There are about 20,000 species of fish and they live in many different habitats. Some fish live in salt water, like the oceans, while others live in fresh water, like lakes and rivers. There are even fish that live in wetlands and can adapt to changing water levels.

INSECTS

Insects are everywhere! Here's how to identify them:

- Insects have three body parts - a head, thorax (mid-section), and abdomen (belly).
- Insects have six jointed legs.
- Insects have two antennae to sense the world around them.
- An insect's skeleton is on the outside. This exoskeleton is an important safety feature for a tiny creature!



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