

# Animal Needs and Life Cycles

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# Glossary

**adaptation** (ad-ap-TAY-shuhn) a body structure or a behavior that helps an organism survive in its environment **(12)**

**amphibian** (am-FIB-ee-uhn) a type of vertebrate that usually begins its life in water but lives on land as an adult **(6)**

**arthropod** (AR-thruh-pod) a type of invertebrate that has jointed legs, a segmented body, and an exoskeleton, or hard outer covering **(5)**

**bird** (BURD) a type of vertebrate that has feathers and wings **(6)**

**camouflage** (KAM-uh-flahzh) an adaptation that helps an animal blend in with its surroundings **(15)**

**classify** (KLAS-uh-fye) to group things together according to characteristics or features they have in common **(5)**

**competition** (kom-puh-TISH-uhn) the struggle among organisms that share the same resources, such as sources of food, water, or shelter **(9)**

**diversity** (di-VUR-si-tee) variety **(4)**

**environment** (en-VYE-ruhn-muhnt) all the physical things and conditions, such as soil, air, water, plants, animals, and weather, that surround a living thing **(8)**

**fish** (FISH) a type of vertebrate that breathes through gills and lives its entire life in water **(6)**

**heredity** (huh-RED-i-tee) the passing of traits from parents to offspring **(12)**

**hibernate** (HYE-bur-nayt) to spend winter in an inactive, sleep-like state **(17)**

**instinct** (IN-stingkt) a behavior that is an inherited trait; animals are born with certain instincts **(13)**

**invertebrate** (in-VUR-tuh-brit) an animal that does not have a backbone **(5)**

**larva** (LAHR-vuh) a stage in the life cycle of some animals that occurs after the animal hatches from its egg; plural: *larvae* **(22)**

**learned behavior** (LURND bi-HAYV-yur) a behavior an animal must learn to do **(13)**

**life cycle** (LYFE SYE-kuhl) the series of stages and changes that an organism goes through during its life **(20)**

**mammal** (MAM-uhl) a type of vertebrate that usually has hair or fur, breathes with lungs, and produces milk for its young **(6)**

**metamorphosis** (met-uh-MOR-fuh-sis) a change in body form that occurs during the life cycle of certain animals **(22)**

**migrate** (MYE-grayt) to travel from one area to another to find food or reproduce **(14)**

**mimicry** (MIM-i-kree) an adaptation in which one type of organism looks like another type of organism **(15)**

**organism** (OR-guh-niz-uhm) a living thing, such as an animal or a plant **(4)**

**oxygen** (OK-si-juhn) a gas that animals need to live **(8)**

**pupa** (PYOO-puh) the stage in the life cycle of some animals that occurs after the larva stage; plural: *pupae* **(23)**

**reproduce** (ree-pruh-DOOS) to have young, or offspring **(4)**

**reptile** (REP-tyle) a type of vertebrate that has dry, scaly skin **(6)**

**species** (SPEE-sheez) a group composed of all the living things of the same type; great horned owls are one species of birds **(4)**

**trait** (TRAYT) a characteristic or feature **(12)**

**vertebrate** (VUR-tuh-brit) an animal that has a backbone **(6)**