Name: _____
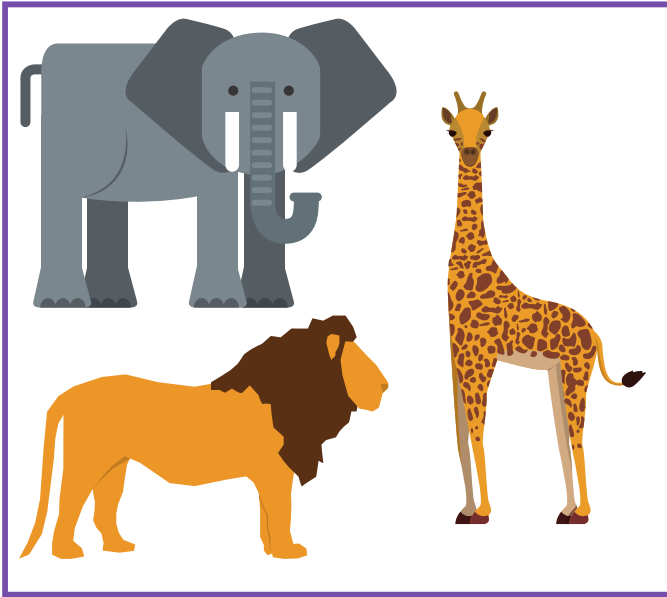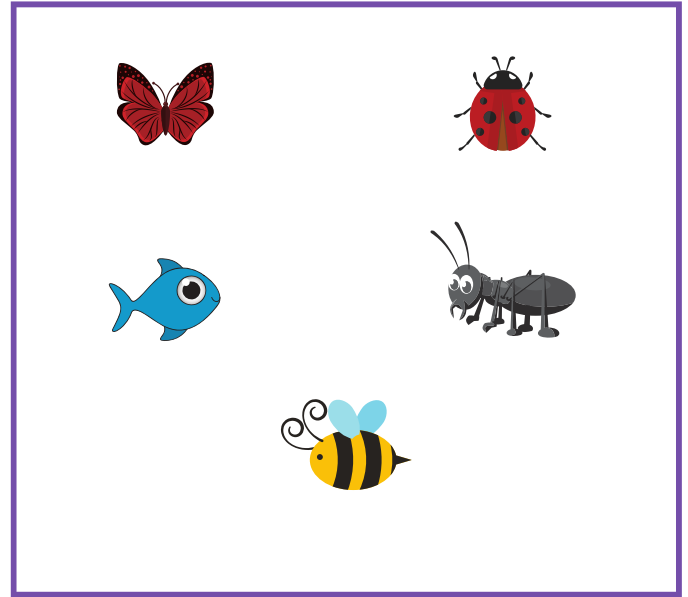
Sorting Animals

Biologists are scientists who learn about living things. Plants, animals, and people are all living things! Some biologists learn about animals. When they learn about animals, they classify them! Classifying is a way of sorting things. There are many ways to classify animals. One way is to classify animals is by size. Take a look at the animals that are classified as big or small.
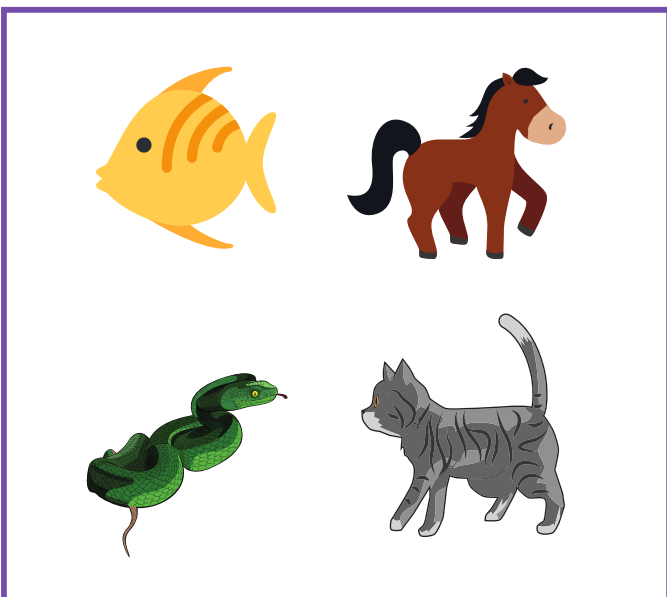
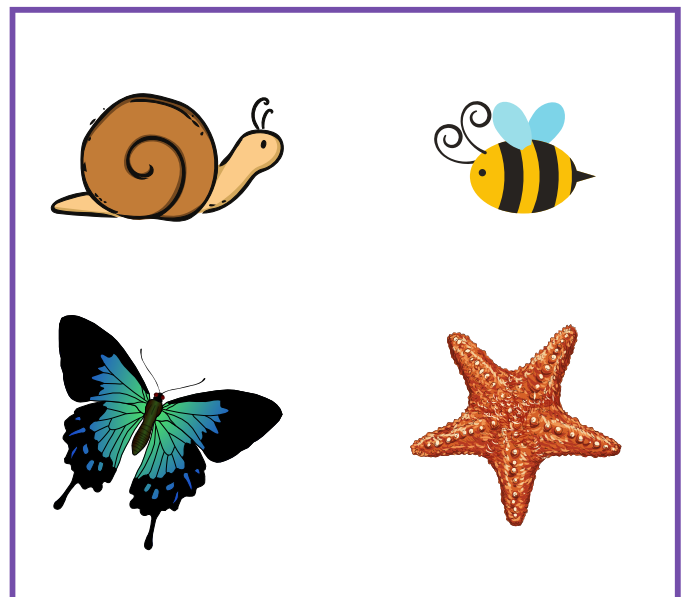Big Animals

Small Animals

Another way to classify animals is by whether they have a backbone or not. A backbone is a row of bones down the middle of an animal's or human's back. The backbone helps animals and humans stand or walk. Animals that have a backbone are called vertebrates. Animals that don't have backbones are called invertebrates. Take a look at animals that are classified as vertebrates or invertebrates.

Vertebrates

Invertebrates

Name: _____

Sorting Animals

Today, you will think like a biologist and classify animals. Follow the steps below.

Step 1: Learn about each animal

Bird

- Has a backbone
- Has two wings

Spider

- Doesn't have a backbone
- Climbs up trees

Turtle

- Has a hard shell
- Has a backbone

Squid

- Lives in the ocean
- Doesn't have a backbone

Dolphin

- Has fins
- Has a backbone

Crab

- Doesn't have a backbone

Step 2: Classify animals as vertebrates or invertebrates

Classify the animals above based on if they are a vertebrate or invertebrate. In the box that says "vertebrate," write or draw animals that are vertebrates. In the box that says "invertebrate," write or draw the animals that are invertebrates.

Vertebrates

Invertebrates

Name: _____

Sorting Animals

Step 3: Classify animals based on their movements

Classify the animals based on whether they walk on land, fly in the air, or swim in the ocean. Write or draw the animals in the correct boxes below.

Land	Fly in the Air	Swim in the Ocean