

Critter Characteristics & Habitats

An Alabama Wildlife Federation Outdoor Classroom Field Journal Activity

*Be sure to click the “Slide Show” tab at the top of the screen & then “From Beginning” to use the interactive features.

What are living things?

Things that eat, breathe, grow and reproduce.



What are the different types of animals?
How do we categorize or classify them?

To **categorize** or **classify** animals you need to think about the **characteristics** that they share and how they are different.

Example Characteristics

spine/vertebrates

skin covering

number of legs

wings

size

number of eyes

how they give birth

how they breathe

What am I?

I am a mammal.

Clue #1: I have a spine.

Clue #2: I have fur or hair.

Clue #3: I breathe using lungs.

Clue #4: I give birth to live babies.

Clue #5: I have four legs.
(or 2 arms & 2 legs)



What am I?

I am an amphibian.

Clue #1: I have a spine.

Clue #2: I have smooth skin.

Clue #3: I lay eggs in water.

Clue #4: I am born with gills,
but I develop lungs as an adult.

Clue #5: I am born without legs,
but I develop four legs as an adult.



American bullfrog tadpole



Eastern newt

What am I?

I am a reptile.

Clue #1: I have a spine.

Clue #2: I have scales.

Clue #3: I lay eggs.

Clue #4: I breathe with lungs.

Clue #5: I can have four legs or no legs.



What am I?

I am a bird.

Clue #1: I have a spine.

Clue #2: I breath with lungs.

Clue #3: I have two legs.

Clue #4: I lay eggs.

Clue #5: I have feathers.



Northern cardinals



Eastern screech owl



Ruby-throated hummingbird

What am I?

I am a fish.

Clue #1: I have a spine.

Clue #2: I have scales.

Clue #3: I breathe with gills.

Clue #4: I have no legs.

Clue #5: I lay eggs.



What am I?

I am an insect.

Clue #1: I do not have a spine.

Clue #2: I have a hard exoskeleton.

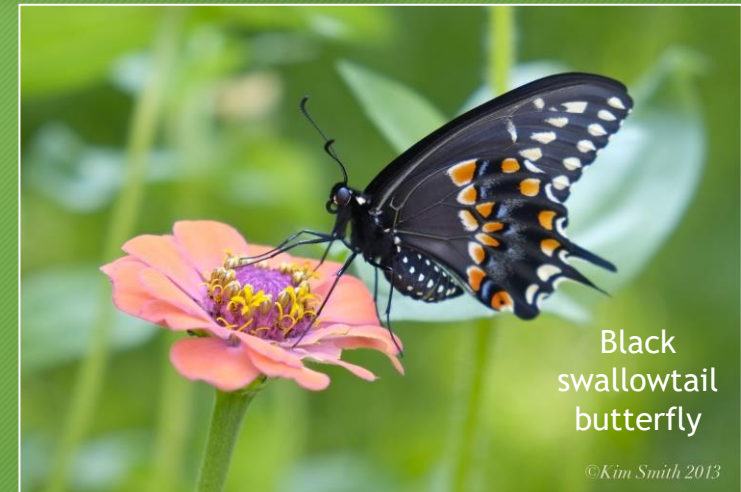
Clue #3: I have six legs.

Clue #4: I lay eggs.

Clue #5: I breathe with a network of tiny tubes called tracheae.



Black ant



Black
swallowtail
butterfly

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Eastern
firefly

Do all of these animals live in the same habitat (home)?
What is different about their habitats?



Lives in a
Woodland or
Forest



Lives in a Forest near
a Freshwater Creek



Lives in a
Freshwater
Pond, Creek
or River

Do all of the animals live in the same habitat?



Live in a
Freshwater
Lake or River

Lives in the
Saltwater Ocean

Some animals can live in a variety of habitats as long as the habitat provides their food, water & shelter.

Live in a variety of habitats including Forests, Fields, Meadows, Deserts, Marshes, and in or near human neighborhoods.



Northern cardinals



Black swallowtail butterfly

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White-tailed deer



Ruby-throated hummingbird



Eastern cottontail rabbit



Gray rat snake



Black ant

What types of animals could we find in our outdoor classroom? What type of habitat do they need?

Insects...



Bumblebee

Meadow with
flowering plants
that provide nectar

Birds...



Red-bellied
Woodpecker

Forested habitat with
tree cavities for nesting

Reptiles...



Five-lined
Skink

Partially wooded habitat with
rocks for basking in the sun

What types of animals could we find in our outdoor classroom? What type of habitat do they need?

Amphibians...



Freshwater pond for laying eggs

Mammals...



Forested habitat for cover with a source of insects (food) nearby

Fish...



Freshwater pond