




Vertebrates

Fish  Fish live in the water and breathe with gills.


- Fish breathe through gills, and live in water; most are cold-blooded and lay eggs (although sharks give birth to live young).

Amphibians  Animals that spend part of their lives under water (breathing with gills) and the remainder on land (breathing with lungs).


- Amphibians are cold-blooded and live both on land (breathing with lungs) and in water (breathing through gills) at different times. Three types of amphibians are frogs and toads, salamanders, and caecilians. Caecilians are primitive amphibians that resemble earthworms. They are found in the tropics.

Reptiles  Reptiles are scaly animals, like snakes, lizards, crocodilians, and turtles.

- Reptiles are cold-blooded and breathe with lungs. They have scales, and most lay eggs. Reptiles include snakes, turtles and tortoises, crocodiles and alligators, and lizards. Dinosaurs were reptiles, although some scientists believe that some were warm blooded.

Birds  Birds are animals with feathers, two wings, and a bill.

- Birds are warm-blooded animals with feathers and wings. They lay eggs, and most can fly (although many, including penguins and ostriches, cannot).

Mammals  Mammals are animals that have hair and nourish their young with milk.

- Mammals are warm-blooded, and are nourished by their mothers' milk; most are born live (however, the platypus lays eggs). Most mammals also have body hair.