



MINNESOTA ZOO™  
Changing how you see the world

# Animal Classification

## Stair Activity

### Post-visit Activity

#### MN Graduation Standards supported:

Grades 6-8  
Strand IV.B.5. The student will use the characteristics of an organism to identify the kingdom to which it belongs.

#### Vocabulary:

Taxonomy  
Classification System  
Domain  
Kingdom  
Phylum  
Class  
Order  
Family  
Genus  
Species  
Binomial  
Nomenclature  
Biodiversity

#### Introduction:

Use of taxonomy in practical settings is an important concept to master. This lesson is designed to review what has been seen during the visit to the zoo. In addition, students will evaluate if the variety of species seen at the zoo is reflective of the world's diversity of animals.

#### Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, students will:

1. Identify zoo animals with their basic phyla and/or class.
2. Relate some phyla to the habitat they live in.
3. State the relationship between the animals displayed at the zoo the diversity of animals in the world.

#### Procedure:

1. Students will share the information they gathered from the zoo with the class.
2. A master list of animals will be tabulated by the teacher to facilitate discussion. The teacher will list the phyla and/or class across the top of a chart and ask student groups to share one animal they found and the phyla it belongs to. Continue adding animals to the chart until everyone has shared their animal lists.
3. The class will then answer the following questions by table groups and then share findings with the whole class:
  - a) Was there a predominant phyla and/or class of animal the zoo had on exhibit?
  - b) Did certain trails at the zoo concentrate on a few or many different phyla and/or classes? Explain and give examples.

## Links:

### Basic Phyla Information

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/help/taxaform.html>

### Diversity Web Site

<http://members.shaw.ca/rjbiebrich4/MyWeb4/DiversityOfLife/DiversityOfLife.htm>

### Information on Animal Classification-

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>

## Procedure Continued:

- c) Does the variety of animals on the trails reflect the variety of phyla and/or classes of animals in the regions they represent? Explain.
  - d) Arthropods are the most numerous species on earth. Why does the zoo not reflect this diversity at the zoo?
4. Background diversity information:
- Arthropoda- about 1 million species
  - Mollusca- about 110,000 species
  - Osteichthyes- about 18,000 species
  - Cnidaria- about 10,000 species
  - Aves -about 9,000 species
  - Reptilia about 7,000 species
  - Echinodermata- about 6,000 species
  - Mammalia about 4,400 species
  - Amphibia -about 4,200 species
  - Chondrichthyes- about 850 species
5. This activity could also be adapted for use in the study of plant phyla.



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