

Comparing and Contrasting Vertebrates and Invertebrates

Read the informational text and complete the graphic organizer.

All animals eat, breathe, grow, and reproduce. They also respond to stimuli and have a definite life span. But not all animals are alike. Based on their similarities and differences, animals can be classified into vertebrates and invertebrates.

Vertebrates are all animals that have a backbone. The backbone protects the spinal cord. Vertebrates have two main groups: fish and mammals. The fish have gills and cells to cover their body. Mammals have lungs and cells to cover their body. Vertebrates give birth to young that are more developed than invertebrates.

Invertebrates do not have a backbone. They have a soft body. Some invertebrates, like spiders and insects, have an exoskeleton and they move slowly. Other invertebrates, like jellyfish and octopuses, are annelids, Platyhelminthes, sponges, echinoderms, cnidarians, mollusks, and arthropods. Invertebrates are found in all habitats, but they generally have a hard time adapting to a habitat that is not their own.

Remarkably, the majority of the two million species of animals in the world are invertebrates, and only a small percentage of them account for vertebrates.

Preview

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Invertebrates

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