

Vertebrates

Read the passage on vertebrates and answer the questions that follow.

Vertebrates

Some animals, such as tigers and crocodiles, have backbones, while others, such as earthworms and jellyfish, do not. Animals with a backbone are called vertebrates.

These animals usually have a skeletal structure made of bones and cartilage. The term



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- **Mammals:** Mammals are born from their mothers and feed on the mothers' milk when they are babies. They are warm-blooded and also have fur or hair. Mammals, such as human beings, often live on land, but some, such as whales, live in water. Most mammals can walk, but some can swim, and some can fly. Whales are swimming mammals, while bats are flying mammals.
- **Birds:** Birds are warm-blooded vertebrates that lay eggs. They have feathers, wings, and a beak. Most birds can fly, but some, such as penguins and ostriches, cannot. Pigeons and bald eagles are some examples of birds.

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- **Fish:** Fish are cold-blooded vertebrates that live in water. Most of them reproduce by laying eggs. They have fins and scales. Their gills allow them to breathe underwater. Catfish and tuna are some examples of fish.
- **Amphibians:** Amphibians are cold-blooded vertebrates that can both swim and walk. They live on land and in water. They have wet skin and most of them

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1) What are vertebrates? What does the term 'vertebrae' refer to?

2) What is the difference between warm-blooded animals and cold-blooded

a

3) a

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b



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4) Write two examples for each vertebrate.

Mammals _____

Birds _____

Fish _____

Amphibians _____

Reptiles _____

Vertebrates

5) Fill in the blanks based on your understanding of the passage.

- a) _____ are mammals that can fly.
- b) _____ are mammals that can swim.
- c) _____ and _____ are birds that cannot fly.
- d) Fish breathe through their _____.
- e) The body of reptiles is covered with _____.

6) W

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