

## Animal Groups

### Summary

Animals are different from one another in many ways. Some animals have backbones and some animals do not have backbones. Mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians all have backbones. Insects and other animals, such as octopuses, do not have backbones. Animals live in different places and are adapted to their environments in many ways.

### Before Reading

#### Take a Picture Walk

Build background for the book by taking a picture walk with children. Discuss the pictures and preview the key vocabulary and concepts. Invite children to talk about what they may already know about different kinds of animals, such as *some animals walk on land, some fly, and some live in water*.

#### Vocabulary

amphibian, bird, camouflage, fish, gills, insect, mammal, reptile

#### Comprehension Skill: Alike and Different

*Say:* When we read about different kinds of animals, we talk about ways they are alike and different. As you read about the animals in this book, think about ways they are alike and ways they are different.

### During Reading

#### Think Critically

Have children answer the *What Did You Learn?* questions located on the inside back cover of their book.

- 1. How does an arctic fox's fur change in the winter?** In winter the arctic fox's fur changes from brown to white.
- 2. How does camouflage protect a chameleon?** Camouflage helps the chameleon stay safe.

### After Reading

#### Writing in Science

Snails and jellyfish do not have backbones. Write to explain how these animals stay safe. Include details from the book to support your answer.

#### Organize Information

*Graphic Organizer: Alike and Different*

Have students complete the Alike and Different chart on the BLM for this Leveled Reader to tell how an octopus and an earthworm are alike and different.

#### Related Resources

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Vocabulary Cards   | Equipment Kit      |
| Every Student Learns   | Activity Flipchart |
| Quick Study  | LabZone            |
| Big Book of Science Songs and CD   |                    |
| Graphic Organizer Transparencies   |                    |
| Quick Activity Transparency  |                    |
| <a href="http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com">www.pearsonsuccessnet.com</a> |                    |

**Write your answers.**

1. What are some kinds of animals with backbones?  
**Mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians have backbones.**
2. Name some ways fish are adapted to live in their environment.  
**Fish have scales and fins to help them swim and gills to help them breathe.**
3. What are some kinds of animals without backbones?  
**Snails, jellyfish, insects, worms, and octopuses are kinds of animals without backbones.**
4. How is an octopus like an earthworm?  
How is it different?  
Use the graphic organizer to help you.

**Possible answer:**

**Alike**

**Different**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Both are animals without backbones.</b></p> | <p><b>Earthworms live in the soil.</b></p> <p><b>Octopuses live in the sea.</b></p> |
|---|---|