How can you group animals?

Content focus:	Features of animals and ways they can be grouped
Science as a human endeavour:	Use and influence of science
Science inquiry:	Processing, modelling and analysing | Communicating

Background information

- At this level, it is not necessary to discuss the formal animal classification system, but mammals, insects and other common names can be mentioned as a way of grouping animals.
- The focus is more on the parts of the animals which help identify the group they belong to. Some features are the same and others are different.
- Birds and some mammals have two legs, while other mammals have four legs. Insects have six legs and arachnids have eight legs.
- Animals can also have multiple features, such as wings and legs, like a butterfly.

Preparation

- The cards on page 15 can be cut out and laminated prior to the lesson, or students can cut the cards out themselves.

The lesson

- Pages 13 and 14 are to be used together.
- Read through the text on page 13 as a class. Students can then complete page 14 in small groups or pairs and share their answers with the class.
- Encourage students to group or match the animal cards on page 15 using many different grouping strategies; for example, fur, feathers, white, stripey, spotty, two legs, four legs, tails, swims and walks. Students can describe the groupings to a partner or in small groups.

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Ponder point

Do any of your students learn better through movement?

Consider reinforcing the concept of animal classification by having students role-play various animals, and focusing on animal body parts and movements for the class to guess.

Measure in a minute

Ask the class to hold thumbs up if they understood the lesson and the concept of grouping animals, thumbs sideways if they mostly understood, and thumbs down if they did not understand.

How can you group animals? – 1

Scientists like to group animals. It helps make sense of all the different kinds of animals in the world. Animals can be grouped by their coverings, like fur or scales. They can also be grouped by their body parts. Animals can have a different number of legs. Some have two legs, four legs, six legs or even eight legs!

Here are some examples.

Two legs

Four legs

Six legs

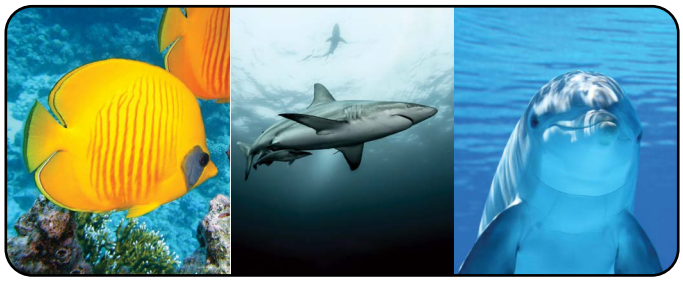
Eight legs

Some animals have wings or fins. This means they can fly or swim.

Here are some animals that fly and some that swim.

Fly

Swim



Animals like birds, bees and dragonflies have legs and wings. So they can walk and fly.

There are many ways you can group animals. Just look at their body parts. Some animals may be spotty or stripey and some may have feet or arms.

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