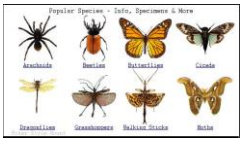
Animal Unit Vocabulary Study Guide

Amphibian (am-fib-ee-un)
A cold-blooded vertebrate that can live on land and water, goes through metamorphosis, breathes with gills when young and with lungs when adult.

Animal Kingdom (an-i-mal king-dom) One of the 5 kingdoms. Animals all have multi-cellular bodies, are heterotrophs, obtain food and oxygen for energy, keep internal conditions in balance, move, and reproduce.



Arthropod (ar-thro-pod)
Invertebrates with exoskeletons, jointed legs, segmented bodies, some have wings, get air through lungs or air tubes. Examples: insects, arachnids, and crustaceans.

Arachnid (ar-ak-nid) These are a class of arthropods; they are spiders.

Birds (bir-ds) These are endothermic vertebrates. They have feathers, wings, beaks, two feet, breathe with lungs, and lay eggs.

Camouflage (cam-oh-fla-j)
Blending in, used as a form of defense

Conditioning (con-dish-on-ing)
This is a type of learned behavior in which an animal learns that a particular stimulus and its response to that stimulus will lead to a good or bad result. For example, chimpanzees learn to use small sticks to dig in the soil for insects, or a child learns that touching a hot object will cause pain.

Courtship (kort-ship)
Behavior where an adult attracts a mate using odors, sounds, or colors. Environmental changes, such as a change in seasons, can stimulate animal courtship.

Defense (dee-fens)
The way an animal protects itself.

Echinoderm (ee-key-no-derm)
Invertebrate, arms extend from center of body, tube feet that take in oxygen from the water and spines.

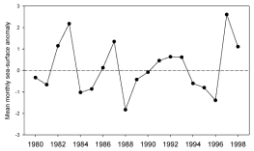


Figure 3. Mean monthly sea-surface temperature anomaly (in °C). The anomaly is calculated as the deviation from the 19-year mean of 23.72 °C (data from Snell and Rea 1999).

Ectotherm (ek-tuh-therm)
Fish, amphibians, and reptiles whose body takes on the temperature of their surrounding. They need to be warm to have energy to hunt their prey. If it is too hot outside, they will burrow in the ground to stay cool. They do not eat as often as endothermic animals.


Endoskeleton (en-doh-skel-e-ton)
An animal's inside skeleton.


Endotherm (en-doe-therm)
Birds and mammals that are warm-blooded; they keep the same body temperature in any type of environment. They eat more often than cold-blooded animals because they need more energy to keep their body temperature the same. They cool off by sweating, panting, or changing their location.


Exoskeleton (ek-soh-skel-e-ton)
An animal's hard outer covering.


Fish This is an ectothermic animal that is a vertebrate. It lives in water, has scales, fins, breathes will gills, and lays eggs.

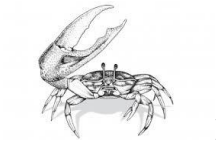

Grouping (groo-ping)
When animals travel together in large numbers for purposes of protecting others in the group or to fool a predator into thinking the group is one large organism. Ex: herd of buffalo, school of fish, pack of wolves


Heterotroph (het-er-uh-trof)
Animal that cannot make its own food.


Hibernation (high-ber-na-tion)
During winter weather conditions, animals reduce body activity to conserve food; heartbeat and breathing slow to use less energy. Ex: ants, snakes, black bears, beavers, squirrels


Imprinting (im-print-ing)
This is a type of learned behavior in which newborn animals recognize and follow the first <u>moving</u> object they see. Usually, this is the mother. The imprinting behavior cannot be reversed.

Inherited (in-heh-rih-tid)
Some animal behaviors are instincts – they are passed from the parent to the offspring and are with them animal from birth. For example, the ability to swim for whales or fish, babies crying to indicate hunger, a snail digging a hole to lay its eggs, a bird building its nest, a fiddler crab waving its claw to attract a female.


Instinct (in-stink-t) Behaviors passed from parent to offspring and are with the animal from birth (also called inherited behaviors).

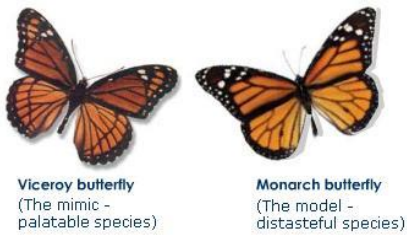

Internal Stimuli (in-tern-al)
Cues to help the body survive.
Ex: hunger (to gain energy), thirst (body made mostly of water), sleep (to restore ability to function)


Invertebrate (in-vir-tuh-brate)
An animal without a back bone. The classes of invertebrates are: sponges, echinoderms, segmented worms, mollusks, and arthropods. A clue to remember this is: SpongeBob Eats Seaweed Monday Afternoons or AMESS

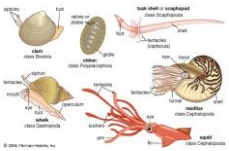
Learned Behaviors (lern-d bee-hay-v-yours)
Animal behaviors that are a result from direct observations or experiences.

Mammals (mam-mals) These are vertebrates that are endothermic animals. They have hair or fur, most give live birth, produce milk to feed their young. Examples include: people, dolphins, whales

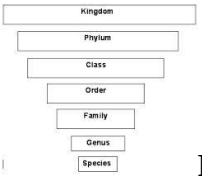
Migration (my-gray-shun)
The movement of animals from one place to another in response to seasonal changes in daylight and weather. They usually use the same routes each year.
Ex: monarch butterflies, orcas (whales), caribou (moose), and ducks.



Mimicry (mi-mi-cree)
When a weaker animal copies a stronger animal's characteristics to warn off predators.

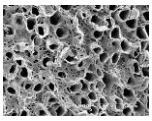


Mollusk (mol-lusk)
Invertebrate with soft bodies, some have shells, most move with thick muscular foot which also is used to open and close its shell, take in oxygen through gills or lungs.



Phyla (fye-la) This is the second grouping in the Levels of Classification. The animal kingdom has over 35 different phyla. They can be grouped into either vertebrates or invertebrates.

Physical Responses (fiz-i-cal)
The way an animal responds to environmental stimuli (i.e., temperature).
Ex: shedding, panting, sweating, shivering, blinking, food gathering

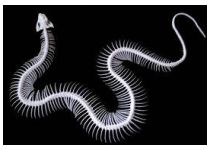


Pores (poors) Pores are holes.

Reptile (rep-tie-il)
A cold-blooded vertebrate that breathes with lungs, most lay eggs; they have scales or plates.

Segmented worms (seg-ment-id)
Long tube-like bodies that are divided into segments, digestive system is a tube that runs the length of its body, takes in oxygen from the water through its skin. Example: earthworms, leeches

Sponges (spun-jez)
Very simple invertebrate animals with many pores, has special cells that get oxygen and food from water, gets rid of wastes through water flow.



Vertebrate (vir-tuh-brate)
An animal that has a back bone. The classes of vertebrates are: fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds. A clue to remember this is: F.A.R.M. Birds or F.A.R.M. B

Vertebrates share similar characteristics:
1. They have internal skeletons
2. They have blood that circulates through blood vessels and lungs (or gills) for breathing
3. They have a protective skin covering
4. Most have legs, wings, or fins for movement.
5. They have a nervous system with a brain that processes information from their environment through sensory organs.