



Vertebrate Classification Activity 1

Student's Name: _____

Class: _____

	Fish	Amphibians	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals
Warm or cold blooded					
Type of body covering					
Live birth or hatched from egg					
Feed young milk?					
Has skeleton					
Breathes with lungs or gills					



Vertebrate Classification Activity 2

Student's Name: _____

Class: _____

The diversity of life on Earth is so complex that scientists developed a system to classify all living things. There are five kingdoms in all, but for this activity we will concern ourselves with the **Plant** and **Animal Kingdoms**. **Botany** is the study of plants and **zoology** is the study of animals. The animal kingdom has been divided into two Phylum, **invertebrates** and **vertebrates**. Invertebrates are animals without a backbone and they make up 97% of all animal species. Vertebrates are animals with a backbone and have been divided into five classes: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

1. Use the space provided to jot down some ideas on the unique characteristics of each of these vertebrate classes. What makes an animal a fish as opposed to an amphibian or a bird as opposed to a mammal?

Fish

Amphibians

Reptiles

Birds

Mammals



2. Complete the chart below by filling in which class each of the vertebrates belongs and circle those that can be found in or around the Great Lakes. Then in the next column indicate if the animal lives in a saltwater or freshwater environment.

Classification	Environment Saltwater or Freshwater
Muskellunge, <i>Esox masquinongy</i>	
Yellow perch, <i>Perca flavescens</i>	
Moose, <i>Alces alces</i>	
Lake Sturgeon, <i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	
Leopard frog, <i>Rana pipiens</i>	
Killer Whale, <i>Orcinus orca</i>	
Northern Water snake, <i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	
Mudpuppy, <i>Necturus maculosus</i>	
Great Blue Heron, <i>Ardea herodias</i>	
Common Loon, <i>Gavia immer</i>	

Classification	Environment Saltwater or Freshwater
Haddock, <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	
Beaver, <i>Castor Canadensis</i>	
Northern pike, <i>Esox lucius</i>	
Atlantic Cod, <i>Gadus morhua</i>	
Painted turtle, <i>Chrysemys picta</i>	
Bluefin tuna, <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	
Canadian Plaice, <i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	
Great white shark, <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	
Leatherback sea turtle, <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
Atlantic Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>)	
Polar Bear, <i>Ursus maritimus</i>	

Answer Key for Vertebrate Classification Activity 2

Freshwater

(Fish)

Muskellunge, *Esox masquinongy*
Northern pike, *Esox lucius*
Yellow perch, *Perca flavescens*
Lake Sturgeon, *Acipenser fulvescens*
platessoides
Pumpkinseed, *Lepomis gibbosus*
carcharias

(Amphibian)

Leopard frog, *Rana pipiens*
kempi

(Reptile)

Northern Water snake, *Nerodia sipedon*
Mudpuppy, *Necturus maculosus*
Painted turtle, *Chrysemys picta*

(Bird)

Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*
Common Loon, *Gavia immer*

(Mammal)

Beaver, *Castor Canadensis*
Moose, *Alces alces*

All the freshwater species can be found in the Great Lakes region

Saltwater

(Fish)

Atlantic Cod, *Gadus morhua*
Haddock, *Melanogrammus aeglefinus*
Bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus*
Canadian Plaice, *Hippoglossoides*

Great white shark, *Carcharodon*

(Reptile)

Atlantic Ridley sea turtle, *Lepidochelys*

Leatherback sea turtle, *Dermodochelys coriacea*

(Bird)

Atlantic Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*
Northern Gannet, *Morus bassanus*

(Mammal)

Killer Whale, *Orcinus orca*
Polar Bear, *Ursus maritimus*