

Life Science Stories

Birds

Story by Andrew Frinkle

Birds are a kind of animal. Birds can be found all over the world. Sparrows, doves, cardinals, owls, eagles, hawks, chickens, and hummingbirds are some common birds.



Birds are vertebrates, so they have backbones. They are the only kind of animal with feathers. Birds lay eggs. Usually they have a nest for the eggs. Birds have two feet and special arms. They don't have hands or fingers. They have flippers or wings.



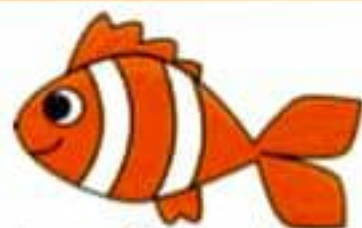
Most birds can fly. Birds have feathers, wings, and very light bones to help them fly. They can't be too heavy! Only a few birds, like ostriches or penguins, can't fly.



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Fish

Story by Andrew Frinkle



Fish are a kind of animal. Fish can be found in rivers, lakes, swamps, seas, and oceans. Fish always need water to live. Perch, sunfish, bluegill, salmon, trout, and tuna are some common fish.

Fish are vertebrates, so they have backbones. They have scales, just like reptiles. Like reptiles and amphibians, fish are cold-blooded. They get warm or cold depending on how hot or cold the water around them is.



Fish have special body parts to help them live in water. Fish have gills to breathe air from the water. They do not have hands and feet. Instead, they have lots of fins to help them swim. Many fish also have swim bladders so they do not sink.



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Insects

Story by Andrew Frinkle



Insects are a kind of animal. Insects are also known as bugs. Insects can be found all over the world. Crickets, ants, grasshoppers, butterflies, ladybugs, and bees are some common insects.

Insects are invertebrates, so they do not have backbones. They have exoskeletons. This means they have their bones on the outside, like a shell. That makes them similar to crustaceans. Some insects, like butterflies, can change as they grow.



Insects always have six legs. If something has eight legs, like a spider, it is not an insect. Insects usually have three body segments. The head is where the eyes, mouth, and brains are. The thorax is where the legs and wings connect. The abdomen is where the guts and organs are.

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Plants

Story by Andrew Frinkle



Plants are a very important kind of life. Plants cover most land. They can be big or small and come in many colors, but they are not animals. Trees, flowers, grasses, and bushes are common plants.

How are animals and plants different? Plants usually can't move. Plants breathe a different kind of air than people and animals do. Plants make their own food from water, sunlight, and the soil. Plants can't talk. Plants don't think. Plants usually make more plants, or reproduce, with seeds.



How are animals and plants the same? They both have body parts that do jobs. Animals eat food, but Plants 'eat' sunlight with their leaves and 'drink' with their roots. Animals grow from babies to adults, and plants grow from seeds to adults.