

Feature Fanatics

Georgia Standards of Excellence:

- SKL2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to compare the similarities and differences in groups of organisms.
 - a. Construct an argument supported by evidence for how animals can be grouped according to their features.

Next Generation Science Standards:

- 2-LS4-1 Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Learning Objective:

- Students will match animals together by their physical features.

Essential Question:

- How can animals be grouped based on their physical features?

Key Terms:

- Sorting
- Grouping
- Physical Feature

Materials:

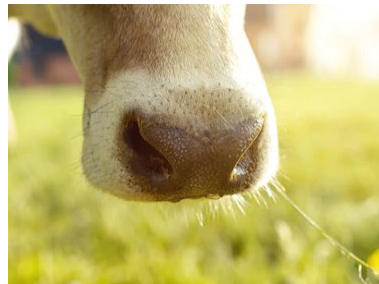
- Various animal figurines or pictures of aquarium animals
- Sorting Animals worksheet
- Sorting Animals cut-out sheet
- Scissors
- Glue

Feature Fanatics

Background Information:

Animals can be described by their physical features, which is what they look like and feel like. Typically, animals are named for these features and the type of animal that they are. For example: Cownose Ray. The rostrum of the ray looks just like a cow nose and it is a ray.

When grouping or sorting things, they can be put together based on their physical features, or anything else that they have in common (for example, smell, taste, sound, etc.)



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Activity Instructions:

1. Give each student a "Sorting Animals worksheet" and "Sorting Animal cut-out" sheet (included below).
2. Have students cut the individual animals.
3. Students can work as a class, in groups or individually to sort and group the animals by pasting the correct animal with the corresponding physical feature on the worksheet.

Answer Key for Teachers:

- Fur: sea lion, sea otter
- Scales: tortoise, sea turtle, whale shark, clown fish, zebra shark
- Smooth: beluga whale, dolphin
- Feathers: penguin, puffin

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Evaluate:

Review where students placed their animals and check to see if it is correct.

- Why did you put the animals where they are?
- What about their bodies made you notice the texture/feature?
- Is there something in common with all the animals in each feature grouping?



References and Extensions:

- Have students make another chart, and label four new categories.
- Students should write the classifying features of these animals in the appropriate box.
- Give the students another sheet with animals to cut out and have them sort and paste each animal into the correct classification.
- After this is complete, have students draw and color other animals that fit into that classification in the empty space of each chart section.
- Review with the class a few volunteers charts to demonstrate the wide array of classification possibilities.

**Sorting Animals Cut-
Out Sheet**

Directions:

Cut out the animal picture cards along the blue box lines



Feature Fanatics Sorting Animals Worksheet



Directions: Paste each picture to the correct box that describes the animal's physical features.

Fur	Scales
Smooth	Feathers