

Classification and Relationships

Scavenger hunt



Blue Whale

What common characteristic do blue, grey and humpback whales share? *Hint: you'll find the answer by visiting the table underneath the whale*

Name one observable feature of the blue whale skeleton that demonstrates the relationship of blue whales to land mammals.

What did the blue whale dig team call the smell produced by decomposing whale blubber and dirt?

Tetrapods

Sexual selection occurs when a trait evolves in one sex (usually males) of a species because that trait increases the chances of success in mating. Find an example of a species that has been influenced by sexual selection in the tetrapod collection.

Draw a male and female of this species, and point out the differences between them.

Two large, empty rounded rectangular boxes are provided for drawing a male and female tetrapod. The boxes are positioned side-by-side and are intended for the student to illustrate the species and highlight sexual differences.

Some dinosaurs still roam the earth! What animals are the current day relatives of theropod dinosaurs?

What group of mammals does a platypus belong to? Where do all members of that group live today?

Marine Invertebrates

Snails and slugs belong to a group of organisms called class Gastropoda. What is the closest living class of organisms?

Herbarium

Fruits develop from flowers. Plants in the rose family produce a wide range of fruits that humans commonly eat. Draw at least three kinds of fruits that come from rose relatives.

Four large, empty rounded rectangular boxes are arranged in a 2x2 grid. These boxes are intended for the student to draw at least three different types of fruits that belong to the rose family.

What kinds of containers are moss specimens stored in?

What two kinds of organisms make up lichen?

What is one common characteristic of all coniferous trees?

Entomology Collection

What are two differences between butterflies & moths?

What do you call it when organisms disguise themselves as an animal that their predators avoid?

Fish

Two distantly related groups of fish have independently evolved a "flat" body. What are the names of these two groups?

Draw one example of a jawless fish.



Fossils

How many mass extinctions have there been over the course of life's history? _____
Which extinction was the largest and when did it happen?

What is the name of the largest prehistoric flesh-eating shark?

What species of dinosaur did the fossilized foot come from?

Wrap Up

Name the top 5 coolest specimens that you saw today. Write down a neat fact about each.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

What was the most interesting relationship you saw in the museum?
Why was it the most interesting?

