

Name _____

Date _____

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Exploring Vertebrates In Your Neighborhood

Vertebrate animals are grouped into five categories (classes): **mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.**

Fourth grade scientists should be able to know about organ systems in vertebrates, and how these systems aid in an animal's survival.

1. Which organ system(s) help animals digest food for energy?

2. Which organ system helps animals circulate nutrients throughout their bodies? _____
3. Circle the vertebrates that use lungs to **respire** (breathe):
Mammals Birds Reptiles Amphibians Fish
4. Circle the vertebrates that use gills to **respire** (breathe):
Mammals Birds Reptiles Amphibians Fish
5. Which organ receives information from the senses and responds to stimuli? _____
6. *What do you think?* In the space below, describe which organ system you think is the most important for animal survival and why.

Look on the back to do some science!!!

With the help of an adult, go on a nature walk around your home or in your neighborhood.

List the animals you observe...are they vertebrates or invertebrates?

VERTEBRATES	INVERTEBRATES

Identify one vertebrate animal in or around your home. Write its name on the line: _____

What type of vertebrate is it? (mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile or bird)

Can you name some *structures* (internal or external) this animal has to help it survive? Describe the *functions* of these structures!

STRUCTURE	FUNCTION

Observe the animal's behavior for a period of time. What do you notice it doing? Are these behaviors reflexes, instinct, and/or learned? Use the space below or attach a separate sheet describing your claims with evidence.