



# AJ インターナショナルアカデミー

\*\*\*オンライン 15 分授業\*\*\*

★Quarter Hour Lesson★

Academic English Animal Kingdom Reading

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Animal Kingdom

In the animal kingdom, we can count over 45,000 vertebrates. These vertebrates can be further classified as cold-blooded or warm-blooded. The body temperature of a cold blooded animal depends on the temperature of its environment. They may move to certain places in order to adjust their body temperature. On the other hand, warm-blooded animals can let their temperature remain the same. These animals tend to sweat to cool off. All in all, either cold or warm blooded, the vertebrates can be divided into five sub groups.

Covered with scales or bony plates, fish live in salt or fresh water. Some species have rubbery skeleton, called cartilage. They are cold blooded and the young fish hatch from eggs. Up to present, scientists have identified more than 20,000 species of fish.

Amphibians also lay eggs and are cold-blooded. As seen in young tadpoles, they breathe in water through gills and that is one of the similar traits with fish. Also, some species are observed to live on the land. When grown up, they develop lungs like land animals. For the additional oxygen intake, they can breathe from their moist skin. Most amphibians are insectivores, whose major nutrition source is insects. Frogs, toads, and newts are found among 2,400 amphibian species.

Reptiles are the first genuine land animals in the Earth's history. They usually lay eggs with tough shells. Reptiles are also cold-blooded and breathe through lungs. As for their features, a lot of reptiles have four legs with five claws on each foot. Over 6,000 species of reptiles have been identified.

The birds are only animals with feathers and wings. Instead of front legs, they have wings. All birds have a bill and no teeth. They are warm blooded and many of them are carnivorous, but some of them are herbivores. They usually build nests to lay, and hatch eggs. Such nests can be a home for infant birds until they are ready to fly. They can be found all over the world, from tropics to freezing icy fields. More than 9,000 species have been identified.



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## Reading Comprehension Questions

1. According to the passage, the gills in amphibians
  - (A) are found besides the head.
  - (B) are always wet.
  - (C) are bony and scaled skins.
  - (D) are the organs to breathe.
  
2. Cartilage may feel as follows when touched;
  - (A) sharp
  - (B) hard
  - (C) soft
  - (D) cold
  
3. The birds make nests in order to
  - (A) grow their infants.
  - (B) protect the eggs.
  - (C) warm themselves.
  - (D) to learn to fly.
  
4. According to the passage, reptiles can be said that
  - (A) they were first to step on the land in ancient time.
  - (B) they cannot breath under water.
  - (C) their skins are covered with scales.
  - (D) they were once amphibians.
  
5. Mammals can be said that
  - (A) they eat insects.
  - (B) they eat only meats.
  - (C) they eat only plants.
  - (D) they have a broad food preference.