

HOW ARE **ANIMALS** **GROUPED?**



by Lisa M. Bolt Simons

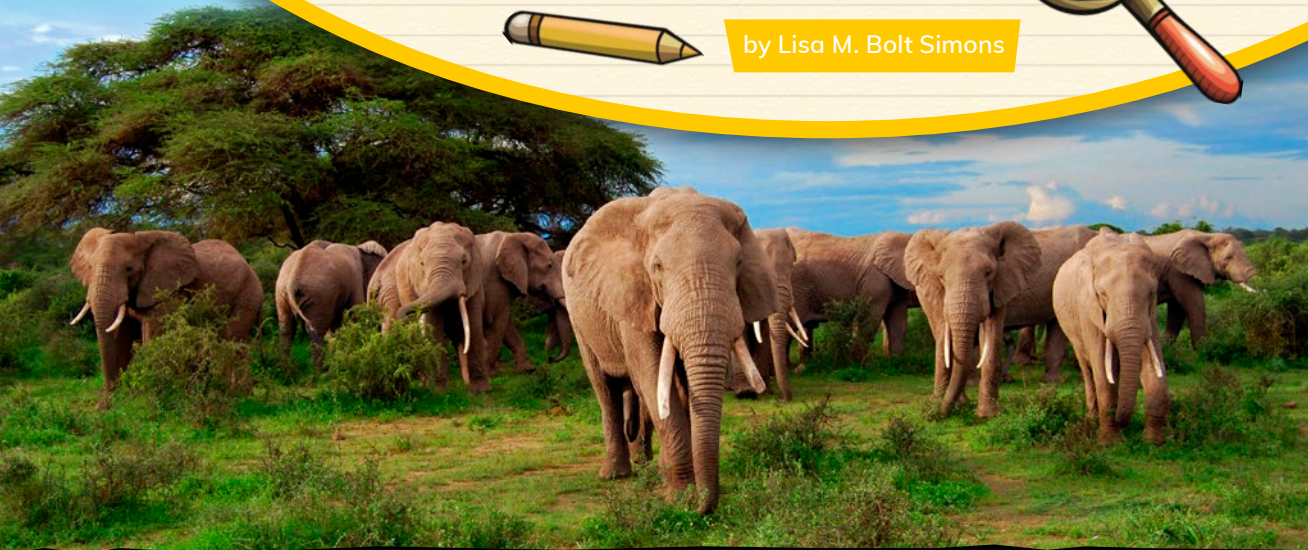


TABLE OF CONTENTS

INVESTIGATION: HOW DO WE GROUP? 4

WHY DO SCIENTISTS GROUP ANIMALS? 8

HOW DO SCIENTISTS GROUP ANIMALS? 12

WHICH ANIMALS ARE VERTEBRATES? 14

WHICH ANIMALS ARE INVERTEBRATES? 24

GLOSSARY 30

READ MORE 31

INTERNET SITES 31

INDEX 32

Words in **bold** are in the glossary.

INVESTIGATION: HOW DO WE GROUP?

Your clean clothes are mixed up in a basket. Look at the characteristics or features. What is the same? What is different? Put clothes with the same characteristics in the same place. They will be easier to find. Shirts in one drawer. Socks in another. Pants in the closet. You just grouped the clothes!

The same thing happens at zoos. Zookeepers understand the characteristics of different animals. Then they build **habitats**. The animals get grouped!



Now let's do a grouping activity.
Look at the animals on page 7.
Make **observations**. Think about
the characteristics or features.
In science these are **traits**. Do the
animals have legs? Do they have
feathers? Do they have fur?

Think about what is the same.
Think about what is different.
How would you group these animals?

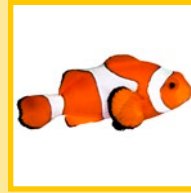
Take a piece of paper. Write
the animal names. Then group the
animals. List traits that are the same.



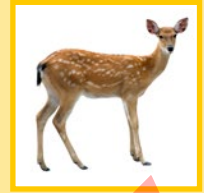
ant



butterfly



clownfish



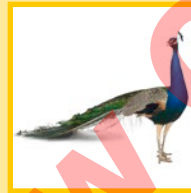
deer



eagle



frog



peacock



polar bear



salamander



sea star



shark



snake



spider



turtle

WHY DO SCIENTISTS GROUP ANIMALS?

Scientists can name and describe more than 1 million **species** of animals. That's a lot of animals!

Animals are part of our daily lives. Some animals are **pets**. Some animals live in our backyards. Some animals **pollinate** plants. These animals help humans. Other animals like ticks are **parasites**. They can cause humans problems. With so many animals in the world, why do scientists group them?

