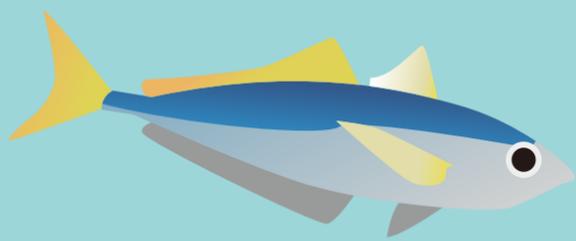


TYPES OF VERTEBRATES

FISH



Fish live in waters all over the planet. Many are covered in scales, propel through the water using fins, and use gills to breathe. Some fish are adapted to live in saltwater, while others require freshwater, and there are even some species that can live in both. There are 32,000 species of fish on Earth. Fish range in size from 7.9 mm long to the enormous Whale Shark, over 12.5 meters in length!

BIRDS

Birds are the only living animals with feathers. They have perfected flight, even though not all birds can fly. They are found in almost every corner of the Earth. There are over 10,000 species of birds. The smallest bird is the Bee Hummingbird, barely over 5 cm in length. The tallest and heaviest bird is the Ostrich, which stands 2.8 m tall and weighs over 300 lbs!



MAMMALS



Mammals have hair or fur and are endotherms, which means their internal body temperature is constant regardless of environmental conditions. Most mammals give birth to live young that feed on their mother's milk during early development. A few mammals, like the platypus, lay eggs. There are over 6,000 species of mammals on Earth. Rodents, bats, ungulates, felines, cetaceans, and primates, including humans, are all examples of mammals.

REPTILES

Reptiles are covered in scales and are ectothermic, which means they can't regulate their internal body temperature, but depend on external sources to stay warm. They are often seen sitting in open places to let the sun warm them. There are over 10,000 species of reptiles around the world. Snakes, lizards, turtles, and crocodiles are all reptiles.



AMPHIBIANS

Amphibians have the best of both worlds. Upon hatching, they live underwater and breathe through gills, like fish. As adults, they have lungs, live on land, and breathe air. Like reptiles, they are also ectotherms. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are types of amphibians. There are over 5,600 amphibians on Earth.

