

## 3rd GRADE MINIMUM CONTENTS

### UNIT 11: ANIMALS-VERTEBRATES

#### ► VERTEBRATES

Vertebrates are animals which have a **backbone** and an internal **skeleton**. The skeleton protects vital organs and supports the weight of the animal's body. Large animals have big skeletons and small animals have small skeletons. All vertebrates can be classified into five groups: **mammals**, **birds**, **fish**, **reptiles** and **amphibians**.

#### ► MAMMALS

##### Characteristics of mammals

- Mammals are **viviparous**. Young mammals drink their **mother's milk**.
- All mammals **breathe air** with their lungs.
- Most mammals live on land. They are **terrestrial** mammals. However, some mammals live in water. They are **aquatic** mammals.
- Most mammals have **hair** or **fur** on their bodies to keep them warm. Aquatic mammals have **bare skin**.
- Mammals can be **carnivores**, **herbivores** or **omnivores**.
- Almost all mammals **walk** or **swim**. Bats can **fly**.



#### ► BIRDS



Birds have **feathers**, two **wings** to fly, two **legs** covered with scales, and a **tail**. Many birds live on land. They can walk, and most birds can fly. Other birds, such as ducks, live on land and in water. They have **webbed feet** to help them swim. Birds don't have teeth, they have **beaks**. Birds

breathe air with their lungs. They are **oviparous**. They **hatch** from eggs laid on land. Birds **incubate** their eggs, feed and take care of their babies.

### ► FISH

Fish live in water. Some fish live in **rivers**. Other fish live in the **sea**. They breathe in oxygen from water using their gills.



Their bodies are covered with **scales**. They have **fins** and a **tail** to help them swim. Fish are oviparous animals. They lay many small eggs in water. These eggs have no protective covering, and the fish don't incubate them. Fish don't take care of the baby fish.

### ► REPTILES

Tortoises, snakes and crocodiles are all reptiles. All reptiles breathe through **lungs** and their skin is thick and covered with **scales**. Most of them live on **land** and walk using their legs, but snakes do not have legs. Reptiles are oviparous. Reptiles lay their eggs on land to reproduce. Most reptiles don't incubate their eggs or feed or take care of their babies.



### ► AMPHIBIANS

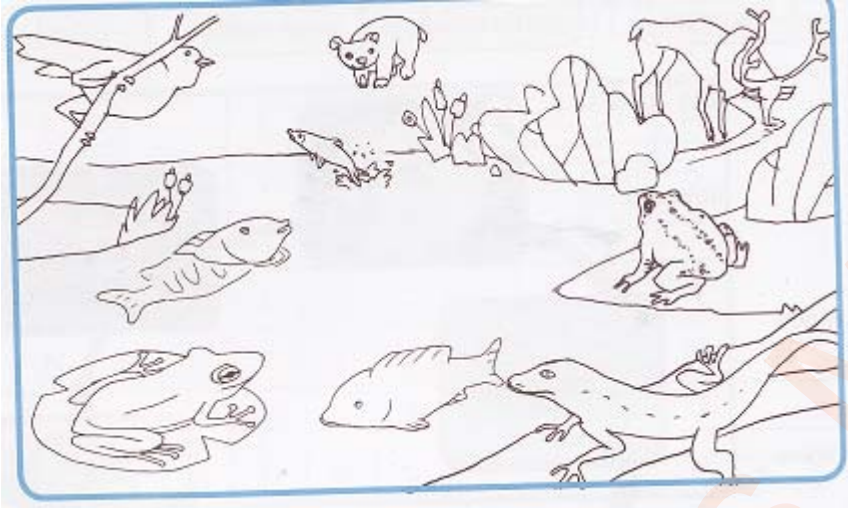
Frogs, toads, newts and salamanders are all amphibians. Amphibians can live on land and in water. They breathe through **gills** when they are young and with **lungs** when they are adults. Their body is covered with **bare skin**. Adult amphibians have four legs. Amphibians are oviparous and don't take care of their babies. **Tadpoles** hatch from eggs laid in water.



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### ACTIVITIES

1.- Use the key to colour the vertebrates.



#### Key

- Green ---- mammal
- Yellow ---- reptile
- Brown ---- amphibian
- Red ----- fish
- Blue ----- bird

2.- Classify these vertebrates. Look and write *mammal, bird, fish, reptile or amphibian*.



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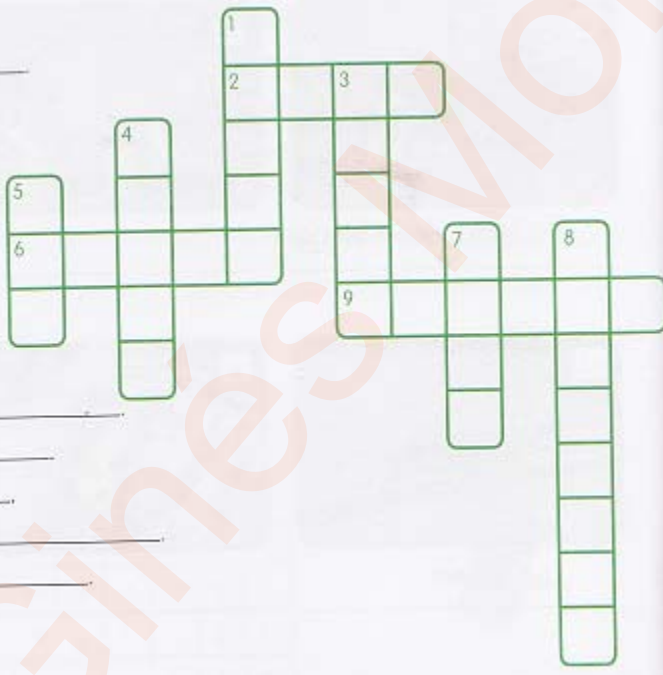
3.-Read the description of mammals and circle the mistakes.

Mammals are oviparous. Most have scales on their bodies to keep them warm. They breathe with gills. Baby mammals drink their mother's water.

**Now write the correct words.**

Mammals are ..... Most have ..... or .....on their bodies to keep them warm. They breathe with their ..... Baby mammals drink their mother's .....

**4.- Read and complete the crossword.**



**Across →**

2. Birds and fish lay .....

6. Birds breathe air with their .....

9. Fish are covered with .....

**Down ↓**

1. Birds don't have teeth. They have .....

3. Fish breathe through their .....

4. Birds fly using their .....

5. Most birds can .....

7. Fish swim using their fins and .....

8. Birds are covered with .....

**5.- Reptiles or amphibians. Read and complete the sentences.**

- a. .... are covered with scales
- b. ....can live on land and in water
- c. ....are covered with bare skin.
- d. ....live on land.
- e. .... breathe through gills when they are young.

**6.- Complete your bilingual dictionary.**

| ANIMALS-VERTEBRATES  |                     |                      |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| - Vertebrates: _____ | - Fish: _____       | - Terrestrial: _____ |
| - Backbone: _____    | - Amphibian: _____  | - Aquatic: _____     |
| - Mammal: _____      | - Breath air: _____ | - Feather: _____     |
| - Bird: _____        | - Fur: _____        | - Wing: _____        |
| - Reptile: _____     | - Bare skin: _____  | - Tail: _____        |
| - Webbed feet: _____ | - Beak: _____       | - Fin: _____         |
| _____                | - Scales: _____     | - Gill: _____        |
| - Tadpole: _____     |                     |                      |