# THE STEM ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WILDLIFE WORDS

An Illustrated **A** to **Z** of
100 Animal Terms for Kids to Know



b small



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# THE STEM ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WILDLIFE WORDS

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100 Animal Terms for Kids to Know



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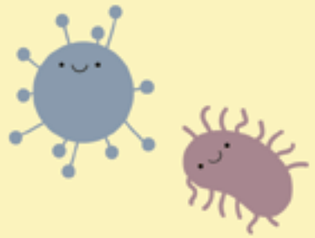
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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This encyclopedia explains one hundred words from the world of wildlife. Each word has its own page, where you'll learn what the word means, along with some amazing facts, all made easy to understand with simple, charming illustrations.

The pages come in alphabetical order, from **A**mphibian to **Z**oosemiotics. It's fun to pick up the book at a random page and see what you find, but if you want to look up a particular word, check the listings on the Contents page.

As each key word is explained, lots more wildlife words are introduced that are related to the idea. These extra words are highlighted in **bold** in the text, and a short definition of each can be found in the Index at the back.

The world of wildlife is full of exciting words and ideas that you might not have come across before. There are many more than one hundred in this book! If you hear about an idea you would like to know more about but it isn't one of the main topics listed on the Contents page, try looking it up in the Index.

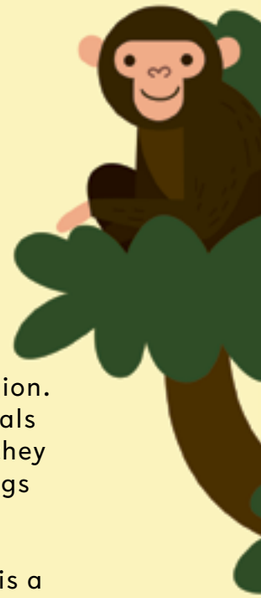









# WHAT IS WILDLIFE?



Wildlife means the animals that are native to an area or a region. In this book you'll learn about all the different types of animals around the world, what makes them the type of animal that they are, how they grow, where they live and all the different things they get up to.

There are species everywhere on Earth (see page 87) so there is a lot to know about them. The wildlife will be different depending on where you live. This book also looks at some of the ways that people study animals, find out more about them and learn how to protect them.





# WHAT IS STEM?

STEM stands for 'science, technology, engineering and mathematics'. The study of wildlife is caled 'Zoology' and it is a very important STEM subject.

**SCIENCE** is studying the natural world by observing it, and then testing out ideas about how it works to understand it even better – from things smaller than an atom to bigger than our galaxy.

**TECHNOLOGY** and **ENGINEERING** both use the knowledge of the world that science discovers to create tools and machines that improve our lives and solve problems in the world.

**MATHEMATICS** uses numbers and techniques to uncover some of the rules of the natural world. Maths also supports all the STEM subjects to make sure their work is accurate.



# AMPHIBIAN

An amphibian is a type of animal that lives near water. When amphibians are young, they live underwater and use **gills** to breathe. When they are fully grown, they live on land and use lungs to breathe.

The word 'amphibian' means 'two kinds of life', because amphibians are able to live in both water and air.

Frogs, toads and salamanders (including newts) are all types of amphibian that have four legs. There are also worm-like caecilians that have no legs.

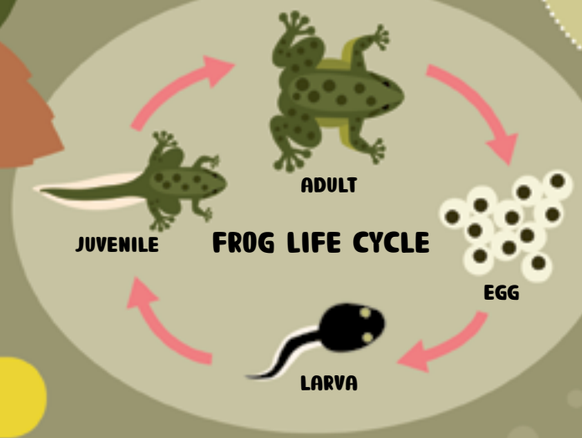






Amphibians can breathe through their skin! They have to keep their skin wet so the **oxygen** can **dissolve** into it, so they ooze mucus from special **glands**.




### Life cycle

Not all amphibians follow the same life cycle of egg – larva – juvenile – adult. A Mexican salamander, the **axolotl**, typically spends its life in its youthful stage – it keeps its gills and lives only in the water. Some caecilian species lay eggs but most give birth to live **offspring**.

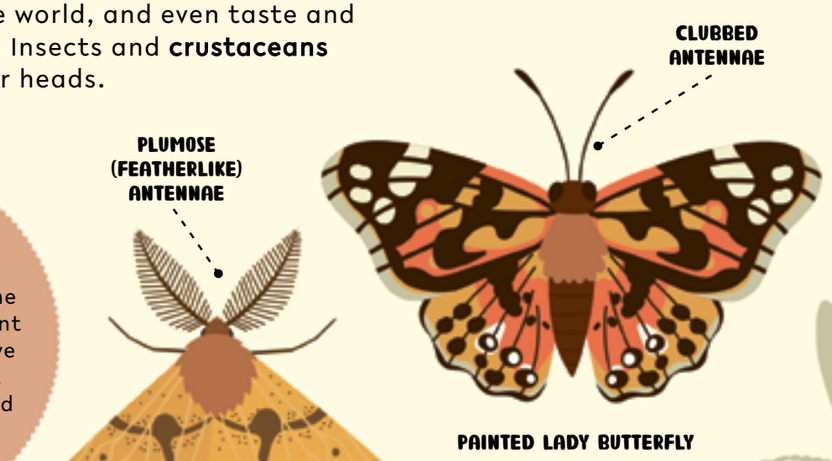




# ANTENNAE

Antennae are moving parts that help a creature feel its way around the world, and even taste and smell its surroundings. Insects and **crustaceans** have antennae on their heads.

Antennae come in different styles. Some are feathery, some are bristly. Some are bent like an elbow, some have larger bits at the end. Some are threadlike and some are like strings of beads.







### Alternative uses for antennae

Some crustaceans use their antennae for jobs other than sensing. Shrimp **larvae** float in the water and use their antennae for swimming. Acorn barnacles, which typically live in shallow sea water, have antennae with **glands** that produce a very sticky substance. This keeps them securely attached onto rocks, even when the sea is rough.

All insects have one pair of antennae. Crustaceans, such as crabs and lobsters, have two pairs. Their longer set is for feeling their way about, while their shorter pair (known as antennules) is for tasting and smelling.

