

Name _____

Animal Classification Worksheet

To make order out of a collection of different things, it is helpful to put these things into groups. **Taxonomy** is the science of grouping living things on the basis of like characteristics. The ones most often used are *external structure, internal structure, and behavior*. This method sometimes leads to grouping together animals that seem very different. The whale and the bat are examples. Though very different in size and habitat, they are both classified as mammals. How are they different? Why are they alike?

In this investigation, you will identify the common characteristics of some imaginary animals. You will then put them into groups based on such features of external structure as means of locomotion, type of body covering, and type of appendages.

A. Study the six imaginary animals.

1. In which animal(s) is the principal form of locomotion flying? _____

Walking? _____ Swimming? _____ Rolling? _____

2. In which animal(s) is the principal body covering feathers? _____

Bare skin? _____ Scales? _____ Armored plates? _____

3. Which animals have legs and feet? _____

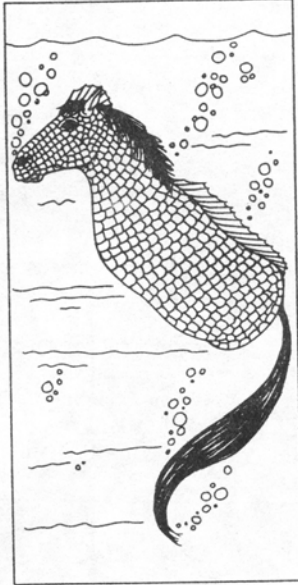
Fins? _____ no limbs? _____

B. Using a different colored pencil for each animal, write the number that corresponds to each animal in the appropriate space under "Principal Form of Locomotion," "Principal Type of Body Covering," and "Limbs/Appendages" on Chart B. Then fill out the rest of the chart.

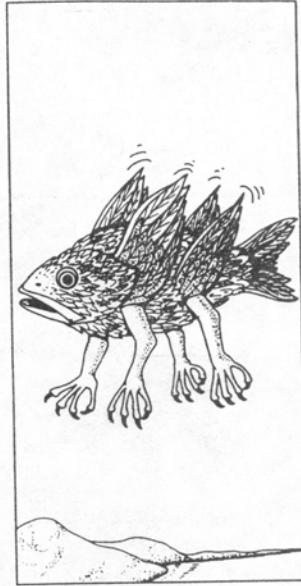
C. Use the information in Chart B to fill out Table C. Animal #1 has been done for you.



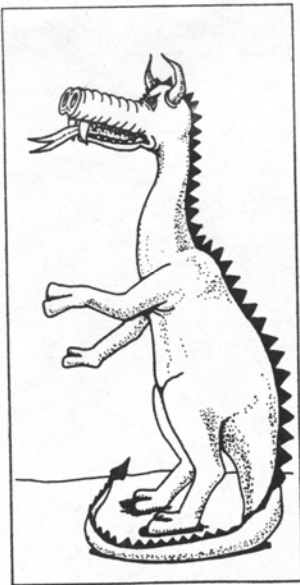
1



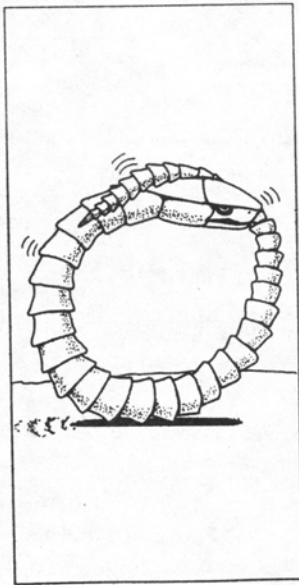
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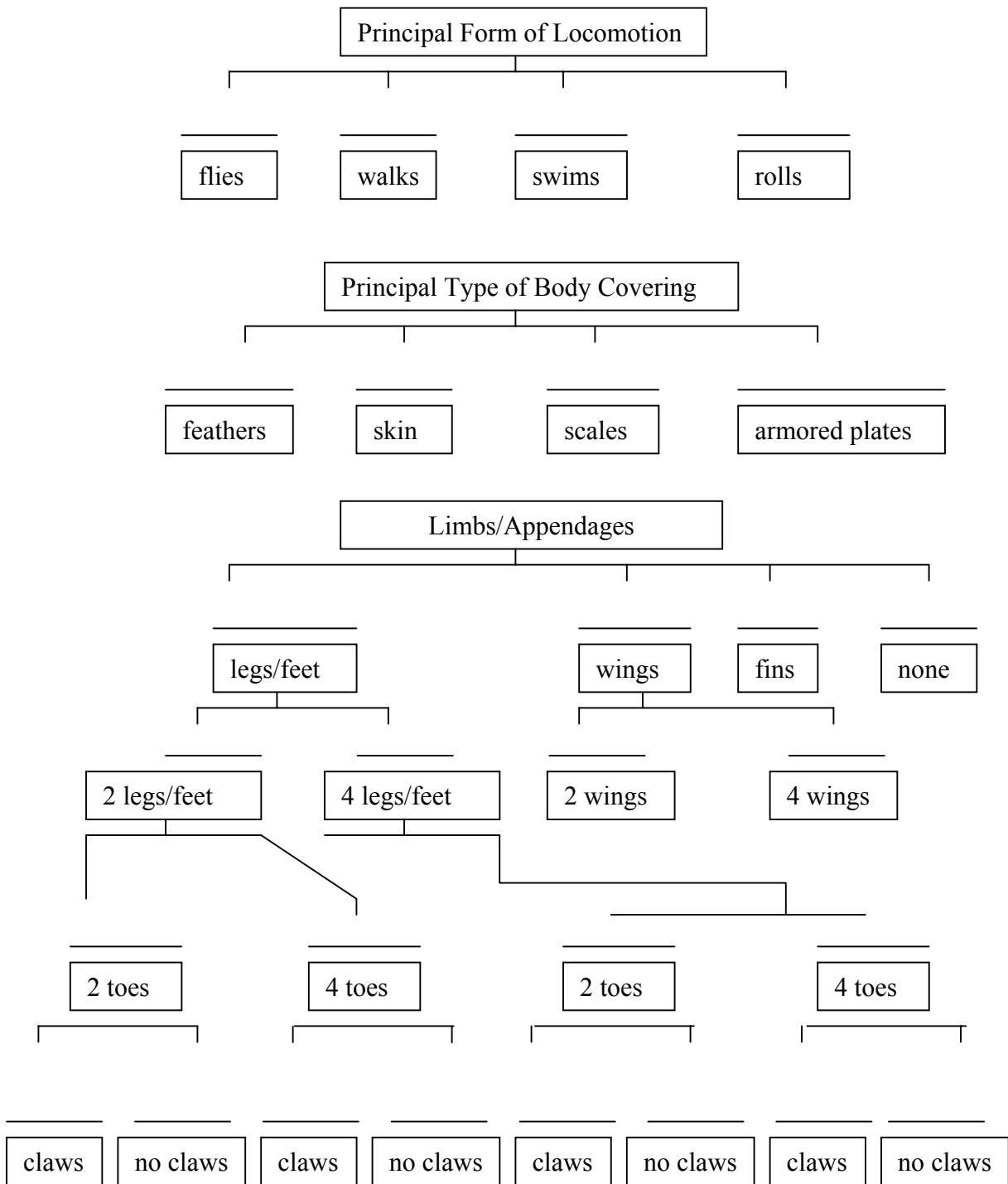


5



6

Chart B



Which animals with similar characteristics can be paired?

Table C

1	2	3	4	5	6
Flies					
Feathers					
Legs (2)					
Feet (2)					
Wings (2)					
Toes clawed 4					

Table D

In this table the animals have been classified into four groups on the basis I of their similarities. List the characteristics that an animal must have to be placed in each of the groups. The numbers of the members in each group have been indicated.

Groups	Members	Characteristics
A	1,3	
B	2	
C	4,6	
D	5	

Conclusions

1. Which of the four groups in Table D would the following imaginary animal belong to: frog that flies, is covered with smooth bare skin, has four wings and has four legs and feet and two clawed toes? Explain your answer.

2. In some of the groups, certain differences are ignored. Why do you think this is necessary?

3. On which one of the following characteristics would an animal's classification most likely be based: type of appendages, number of legs, presence or absence of claws? Explain your answer.