

It Can



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It Can



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It Can



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It Can



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A fox can dig.

A fox can dig.

A fox can dig.

A fox can dig.

No pod can.

No pod can.

No pod can.

No pod can.

A ram can run.

A ram can run.

A ram can run.

A ram can run.

No bud can.

No bud can.

No bud can.

No bud can.

A bug can hop.

A bug can hop.

A bug can hop.

A bug can hop.

No plant can.

No plant can.

No plant can.

No plant can.

Yum



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Yum



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An insect snags buds.

An insect snags buds.

An insect snags buds.

An insect snags buds.

A wild pig finds grubs.

A wild pig finds grubs.

A wild pig finds grubs.

A wild pig finds grubs.

A frog snaps up a bug.

A frog snaps up a bug.

A frog snaps up a bug.

A frog snaps up a bug.

A rat eats stems.

A rat eats stems.

A rat eats stems.

A rat eats stems.

A cat traps the rat.

A cat traps the rat.

A cat traps the rat.

A cat traps the rat.

Most plants do not snag buds, find grubs, snap up bugs, eat stems, or trap rats.

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A Fish



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A fish swims. It does not go on land.

A fish swims. It does not go on land.

A fish swims. It does not go on land.

A fish swims. It does not go on land.



It swims well with the help  
of fins.

It swims well with the help  
of fins.

It swims well with the help  
of fins.

It swims well with the help  
of fins.

It sucks in water and pushes  
it past its gills to get air.

It sucks in water and pushes  
it past its gills to get air.

It sucks in water and pushes  
it past its gills to get air.

It sucks in water and pushes  
it past its gills to get air.

It is as hot or cold as the  
patch of water it swims in.

It is as hot or cold as the  
patch of water it swims in.

It is as hot or cold as the  
patch of water it swims in.

It is as hot or cold as the  
patch of water it swims in.

It latches its eggs on plants.

It latches its eggs on plants.

It latches its eggs on plants.

It latches its eggs on plants.

The eggs hatch! Now, there are a bunch of fish.

The eggs hatch! Now, there are a bunch of fish.

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The eggs hatch! Now, there are a bunch of fish.

A Skunk



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A skunk is digging for grubs in the brush. It uses its arms with long claws.

A skunk is digging for grubs in the brush. It uses its arms with long claws.

A skunk is digging for grubs in the brush. It uses its arms with long claws.

A skunk is digging for grubs in the brush. It uses its arms with long claws.

It is munching on the grubs,  
grinding them with its teeth  
and strong jaw.

It is munching on the grubs,  
grinding them with its teeth  
and strong jaw.

It is munching on the grubs,  
grinding them with its teeth  
and strong jaw.

It is munching on the grubs,  
grinding them with its teeth  
and strong jaw.



It strolls to the creek,  
bending its neck to get a  
drink.

It strolls to the creek,  
bending its neck to get a  
drink.

It strolls to the creek,  
bending its neck to get a  
drink.

It strolls to the creek,  
bending its neck to get a  
drink.

It spots a fox along the bank and lifts its tail making a stink.

It spots a fox along the bank and lifts its tail making a stink.

It spots a fox along the bank and lifts its tail making a stink.

It spots a fox along the bank and lifts its tail making a stink.

The skunk has a backbone with lots of bones attached to help it do all these things.

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The skunk is a vertebrate.  
All animals with a  
backbone like fish,  
reptiles, birds, mammals,  
and amphibians are  
vertebrates.

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A Reptile



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A reptile has a backbone.

A reptile has a backbone.

A reptile has a backbone.

A reptile has a backbone.

A reptile has scales but not skin.

A reptile has scales but not skin.

A reptile has scales but not skin.

A reptile has scales but not skin.

A reptile is cold-blooded. It basks in the sun to make its temperature rise.

A reptile is cold-blooded. It basks in the sun to make its temperature rise.

A reptile is cold-blooded. It basks in the sun to make its temperature rise.

A reptile is cold-blooded. It basks in the sun to make its temperature rise.



A reptile does not brave  
the cold. It hides in holes,  
under stones, or in trunks.

A reptile does not brave  
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under stones, or in trunks.

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under stones, or in trunks.

Most reptiles make eggs once they mate. The babes inside make a hole to escape the soft, thick shells.

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A snake is a reptile. A crocodile is a reptile. A lizard is a reptile. Can you name more?

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Squishy or Crunchy



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Below the grass, a worm inches its way in the dirt. It stretches and shrinks to move its body.

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On a path, a snail crawls at a slow pace leaving a tiny trail. It hides in the shell that it wears on its back if it gets scared.

On a path, a snail crawls at a slow pace leaving a tiny trail. It hides in the shell that it wears on its back if it gets scared.

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In a field, a honey bee flies from bud to bud landing briefly. Its wings beat quickly to carry its furry, rigid body in the air.

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On the beach, a crab scurries. Its shell is a shield that it can outgrow. If it gets big, it will cast it off and grow a new one.

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On the sea floor, a hungry clam waits for its food, plankton, to float by. It snaps its shell shut if it feels threatened.

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Each of these is squishy or crunchy. It may seem like they do not have a lot in common, but there is one thing. None of them have bones! They are all invertebrates.

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A Bird



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A Bird



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A bird has wings, but not all birds fly. Some birds live their entire lives on the ground.

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A bird is a vertebrate. Its skeleton is not very heavy. A bird that flies has some bones that are hollow.

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A bird grows feathers from its skin. These feathers cover most of its body. They keep it warm and dry in rain and snow.

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A bird is warm-blooded. Its body generates heat from the food it eats. No matter if a day is hot or cold, a bird's internal temperature stays steady.

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A bird lays eggs, usually several. The female or her partner take turns keeping them warm and safe.

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A bird's job is not done after the eggs hatch. The new parents watch over the baby birds until they can find food on their own.

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What Makes a Mammal?



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A backbone! A mammal is a vertebrate with multiple limbs, four to be exact. Muscles make the limbs move so that a mammal is agile.

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A backbone! A mammal is a vertebrate with multiple limbs, four to be exact. Muscles make the limbs move so that a mammal is agile.

Body heat! A mammal is warm-blooded. Mammals and birds are capable of keeping their body temperatures stable. Reptiles, fish, and amphibians cannot.

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Hair! Whether it is fine  
and thin or thick like fur,  
all mammals have hair. It  
might cover just a bit, like  
whiskers, or its whole body.  
Even whales have a little  
when they are born.

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Ear bones! A mammal has three little bones in its inner ear. These bones make it possible for a mammal to hear well.

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Brain! A mammal has a sizable brain. It is so big because of a remarkable part called the neocortex. This part enables a mammal to have thoughts.

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Milk! An adult mammal's diet is inedible to its newborns. A female makes milk in her mammary glands to nurse her little babies. That is why a mammal is called a mammal!

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An Amphibian



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Every vertebrate baby will change as it ages. It will get taller or longer, grow more feathers or hair. But, most do not manage to grow new limbs or move from water onto land if they were not born there.

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This is true of most vertebrate babies but not all. Amphibians undergo amazing physical transformations after they are born as they grow.

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Frogs, toads, and salamanders are amphibians. They all hatch from eggs in water. They all have gills to breathe when they are young.

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All tadpoles, baby frogs  
and toads, have a tail.  
The tail disappears as they  
grow legs and lungs. Then,  
they can transition to living  
on land near the water.

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Salamander hatchlings have fins and frilly gills near their ears. They all grow legs, but only some grow lungs. The ones with lungs may move onto land after their legs appear.

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