

Home Letter

Animal Groups
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Dear Family,

There are many ways to group animals—by size, habitat, and even food preferences. This week we'll explore some of those groups and answer the question "What makes birds different from mammals?" We'll learn about fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals in the informational text **Animal Groups**. Then children will have an opportunity to act like different animals when we read the play **Animal Picnic**.

This week's...

Words to Know: bird, both, eyes, fly, long, or, those, walk

Phonics Skills: Long *i* (CVCe); digraphs *kn, wr, gn, mb*; phonograms *-ine, -ite*

Vocabulary Strategy: Suffixes *-er, -est*

Comprehension Skill: Compare and contrast—tell how two things are alike or not

Comprehension Strategy: Monitor/clarify—find ways to figure out what doesn't make sense

Writing Focus: Informative writing—report

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

Play a rhyming game by saying a word—*heard, growth, lies, by, song, store, chose, talk*—and asking your child to guess the **Word to Know** that rhymes with it.

In the Group

Discuss the animal groups children have learned about this week—fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. With your child, say five animals that fit into each group.

Belonging to

Ask your child to choose one of the groups you have talked about. Have your child write about some of the animals that belong to that group and how they are alike and different.



Go to the *eBook* to read and listen to this week's selection.