

# Auckland Zoo Education Pack

**ECE**



**Theme: Classification**

# Zoo Lesson plan

**Theme:** Early Childhood (ages 0-4) CLASSIFICATION

**What will I learn:** How scientists group living things to help make sense of the natural world.

## Inspire

Check out the Auckland Zoo [Animal Pages](#) on our website. Look at the different categories of animals.

- What is similar about the animals in each category?

Watch the video - [Wild about Africa](#), see if you can spot an animal with scales (a reptile), feathers (a bird) and fur (a mammal) from the African habitat.

Listen along to the story [Dear Zoo](#) with Phil from Auckland Zoo.

- Can you spot any animals with fur, feathers or scales?

## Create

Create some **Animal Shadow Art** (resource attached). Which kind of animal did your create – is it an animal with feathers, fur or scales? Could you try one of each? Share your shadow creations with us using the hashtag #createwithaucklandzoo.

**There can be more than just one way to group animals.**

Put together your own groups of animals using our **Animal Sorting Activity** (resource attached). How will you group these different animals? Once you've tried grouping the animals your own way, can you try grouping them by fur (mammals), feathers (birds) and scales (reptiles)?

## Reflect

**Think of any animal** (you could choose one from our website).

- What are the things that are similar between us and that animal?
- What are the things that are different?
- If you have a pet, reflect on what animals would go in the same group as your pet, and what animals would not?

## Explore

**Keys are especially useful when you want to identify different animals.**

See if you can be like a scientist and identify some different animals using our **Classification Game** (resource attached).

**Curriculum links:**

All lessons include aspects of the main strands of Te Whāriki the early childhood curriculum  
WELLBEING | MANA ATUA, BELONGING | MANA WHENUA, CONTRIBUTION | MANA TANGATA, COMMUNICATION | MANA REO, EXPLORATION | MANA AOTŪROA

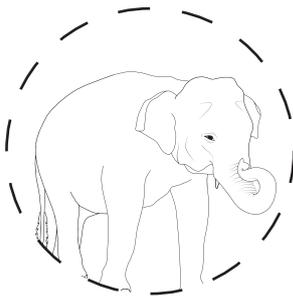
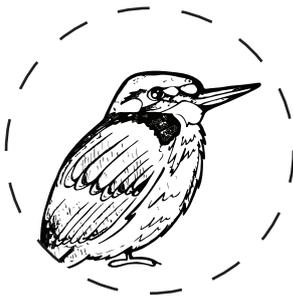
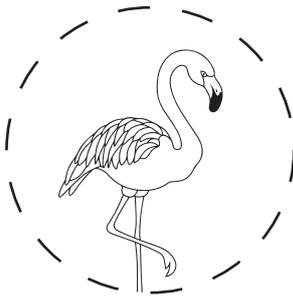
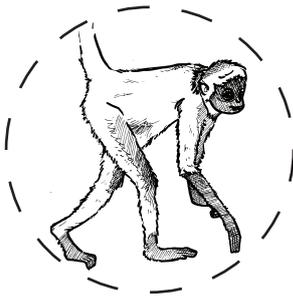
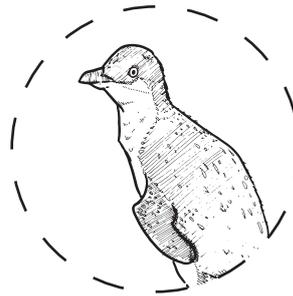
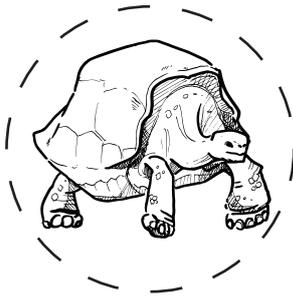
**Auckland Zoo**  
Wildlife conservation science at work

# Classification

## grouping animals

### Instructions

- Either cut out the images below and colour them in, or find some animals in magazines
- Put the animals into groups, how will you decide to group them?



# Shadow animal art

## How to play

Use the shadows to create some animal art!

## Materials

- Blank paper
- Coloured crayons or pencils
- Plastic animal toys
- Light source (e.g. the sunshine, or a lamp)



## Instructions

### Step 1.

Place your favourite animal on the paper with the sun/light shining from behind creating a shadow on your piece of paper.



### Step 2.

Use a pencil to trace lightly around the shadow and create an outline of your animal.



### Step 3.

Use your colours to colour in your animals and add any details like eyes or patterns.



## Extra for Experts

Can you figure out which group your animal belongs in? Is it a mammal (covered in fur), a reptile (covered in scales), a bird (covered in feathers) or something else?

If you have lots of animal toys try making one shadow art for each group!



# Classifying game

## How to play

Follow the flow diagram and answer the questions to decide where each of these animals belong.



1. Hen



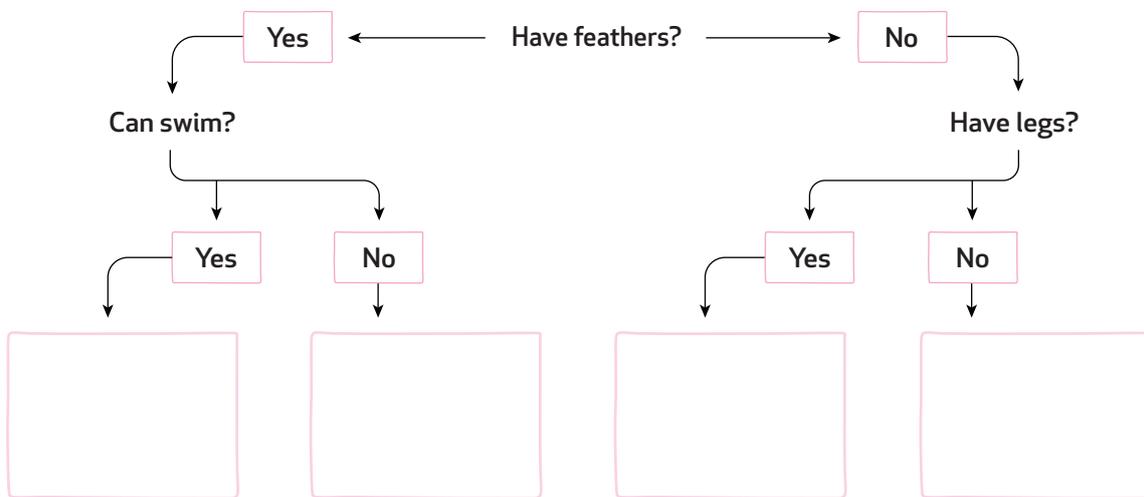
2. Snake



3. Lizard



4. Duck



1. Giraffe



2. Tortoise



3. Peacock



4. Lion

