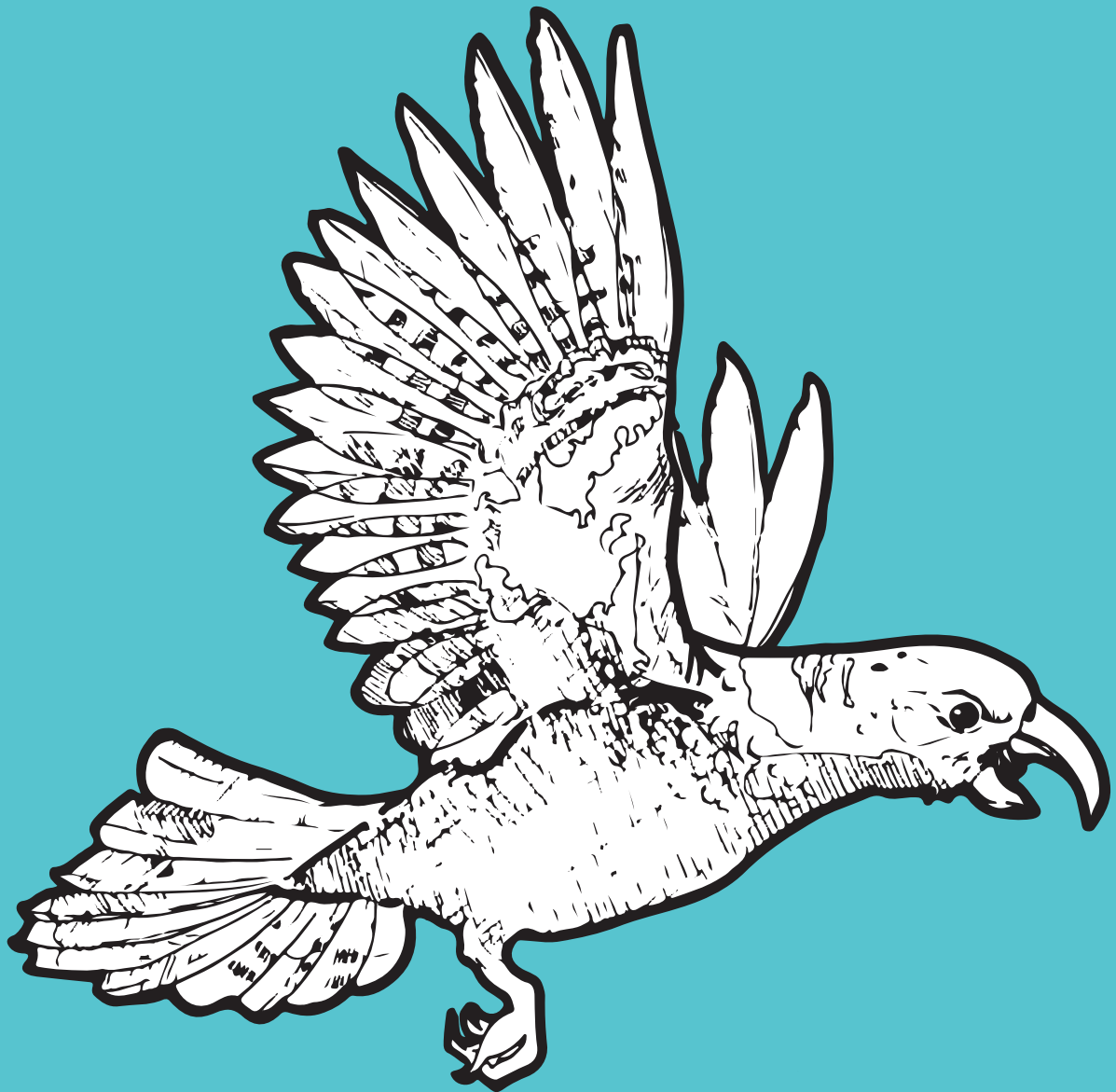


Auckland Zoo Education Pack

Primary



Theme: Classification

Zoo Lesson plan

Theme:

Primary (ages 5-11) **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?

With so many animals on Earth, it can be helpful to put them into groups. Watch this [BrainPOP video](#) to learn how scientists classify animals as either mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates!

Create

There is more than just one way to group animals. Practice grouping animals like a scientist using our **Animal Sorting Activity** (resource attached).

Design, colour and name 10 or more make-believe creatures! What similarities and differences do they all have? How would you classify and group these new species? (For example: dragons and mermaids may be grouped together as they both have tails).

Create some **Animal Shadow Art** (resource attached). Which kind of animal did you 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.

Reflect

Animals are so incredibly unique that it is difficult to find a classification system that can group them all perfectly.

We usually classify animals as either mammal, fish, bird, reptile, amphibian or invertebrate based on certain criteria. But there are always exceptions to the criteria...

Do a little research online to find out about these super interesting exceptions. What makes each of them so difficult to classify?

- echidna
- pangolin
- mudskipper
- platypus
- tuna
- lungfish
- naked mole rat

Explore

Scientists can use a classification key to help identify unknown animals. When you answer a question, the flowchart will either identify your animal or direct you to another question. See if you can identify these Auckland Zoo animals using this **Classification Key** (resource attached).

Keys are especially useful when you want to identify animals that look very similar. See if you can identify some birds from Auckland Zoo using the **Bird Classification Key** (resource attached).

Curriculum links:

Lessons include a range of aspects from the main strands of the NZ Curriculum English, the arts, health and physical education, learning languages, mathematics and statistics, science, social science and technology.

They also consider the Key Competencies Thinking, Using language, symbols and text, Managing self, Relating to others, Participating and communicating.

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!

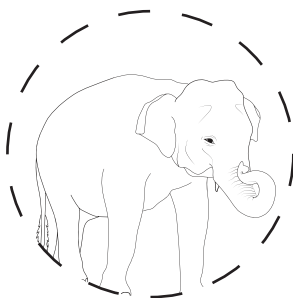
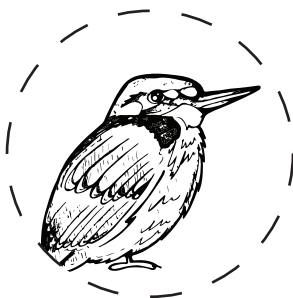
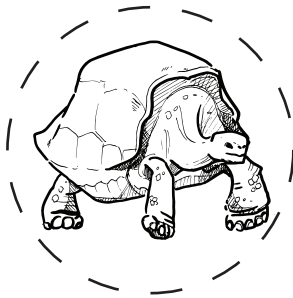


Classification

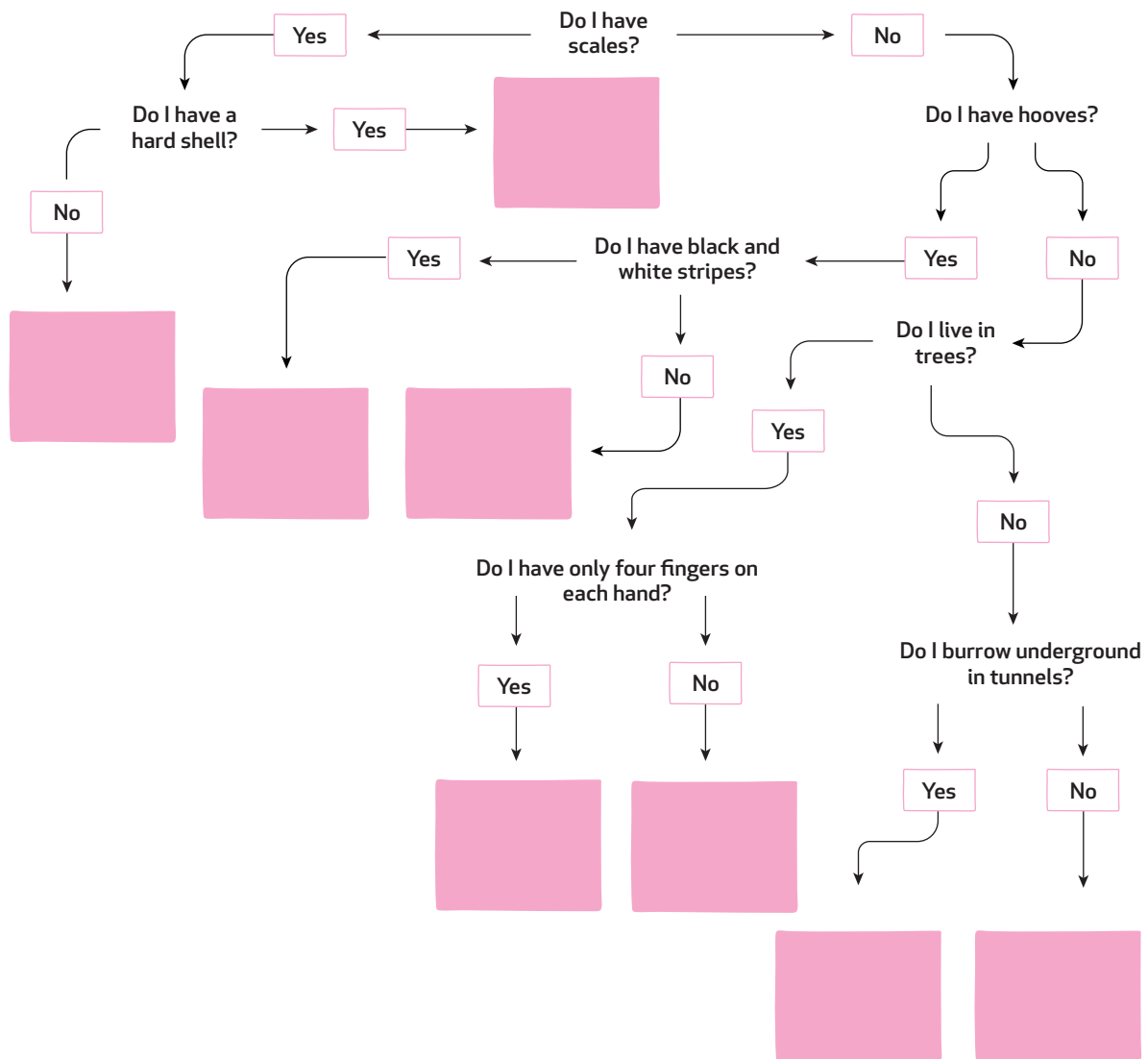
grouping animals

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?

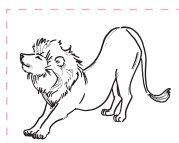


Classification key

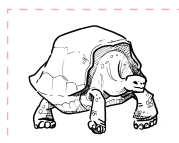


Instruction

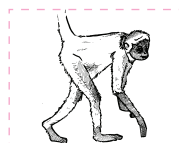
1. Cut out the images of the animals below and colour them accurately.
(Hint: you will need to do some research).
2. Using the questions in the flow chart above, what distinguishes animals from each other.



1. Lion



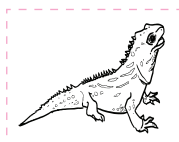
2. Tortoise



3. Spider monkey



4. Lemur



5. Tuatara



6. Meerkat

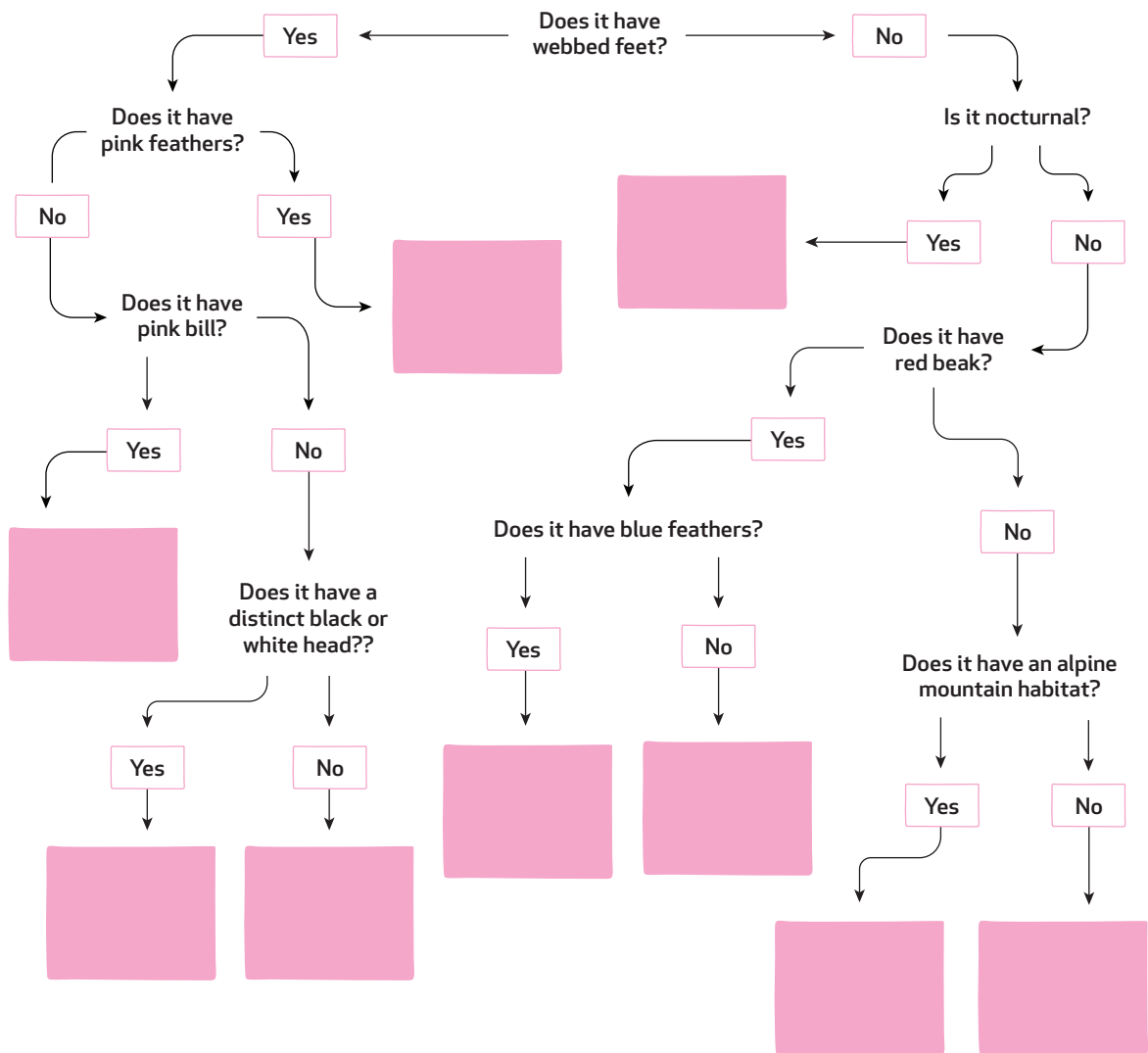


7. Giraffe



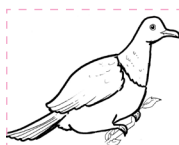
8. Zebra

Bird classification key



Instruction

1. Cut out the images of the birds below and colour them accurately.
(Hint: you will need to do some research).
2. Using the questions in the flow chart above, figure out the name of each bird and stick it down.



1. Kererū



2. Kea



3. Pateke



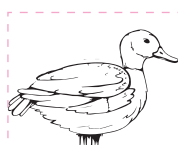
4. Flamingo



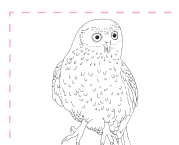
5. Takahē



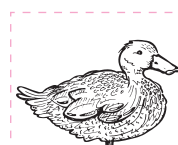
6. Kākā



7. Pūtangitangi



8. Ruru



9. Whio