

# Kids Read

CURIOUS WORLD

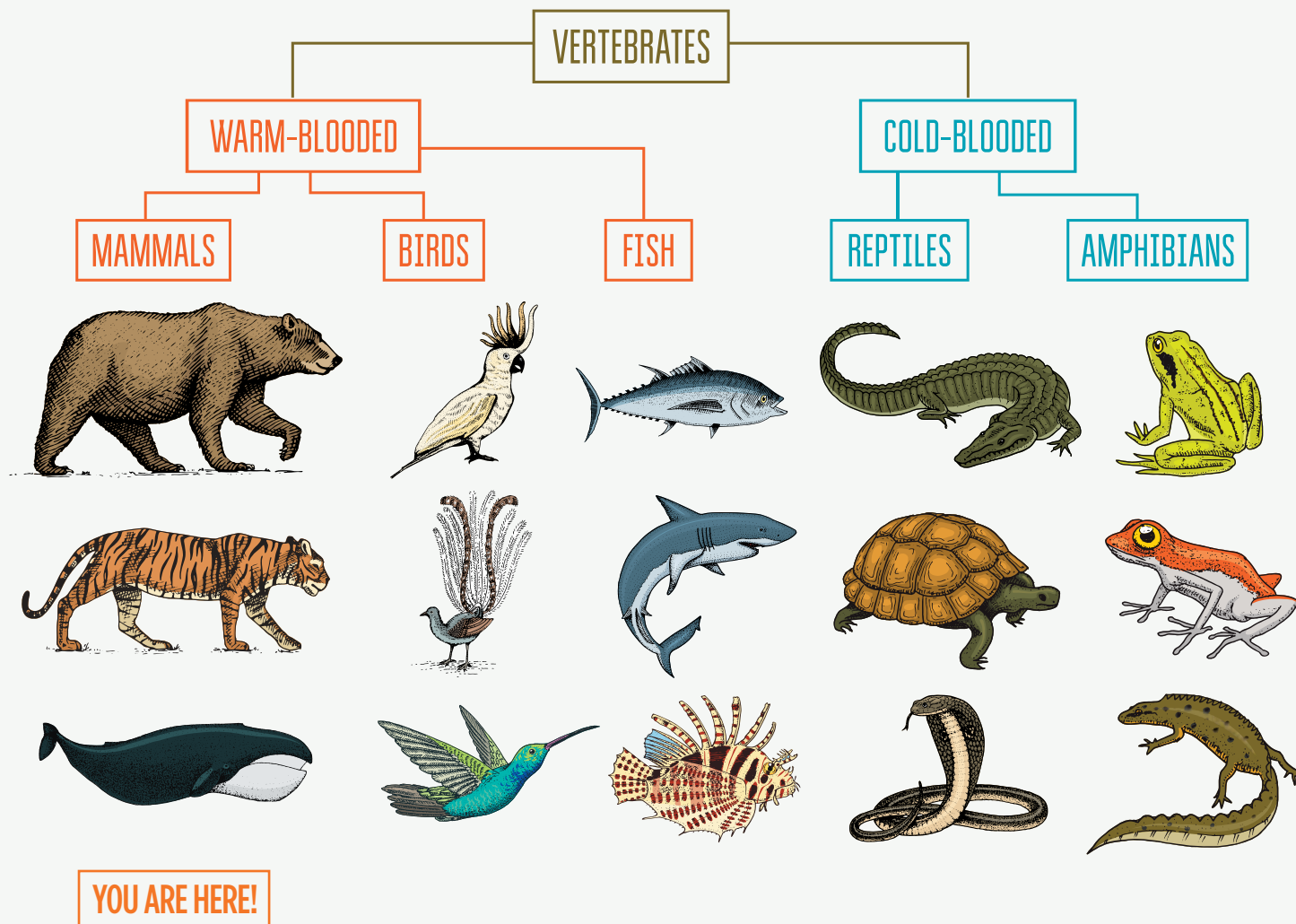


# I'M AN ANIMAL! YOU'RE AN ANIMAL! WE'RE ALL ANIMALS!

# SWIM. LEAP. CRAWL. FLY. RUN!

## 6 Basic Animal Groups

The Animal Kingdom includes many different living organisms, including YOU! Animals are either INVERTEBRATES, which means they don't have backbones, or VERTEBRATES, which means they do. Take a look at the 6 basic animal groups and take note: WHERE ARE HUMANS?



## The Many Ways Animals Move

Depending on how their bodies are made, animals move in different ways. Let's look at a wide range of animals, their unique bodies and the different ways they move!



### Marmoset

These "mini-monkeys" are about 8 inches long – not including their tails! – and weigh less than a soccer ball. Like other monkeys, they scamper from tree to tree using their legs and front paws. They also have sharp claws which help them grab onto branches! Their long striped tails cannot grab onto tree limbs, but they do act as balancing weights as marmosets leap and scurry in the rainforests of Brazil.

**Can you move like a marmoset? Leap from couch to carpet to chair (with your parents' permission!) and see if your fingernails can act like claws to grab onto pillows.**



### Flamingo

You can spot beautiful flamingos from far away because of their bright pink color, but if you look more closely, you'll see their skinny legs, long and flexible necks, and large curved beak. These necks and beaks allow flamingos to scoop up water easily to find something to eat – usually small insects swimming in the water!

**Can you move like a flamingo? Fill a bowl of water with carrot sticks and use your arm like a beak to scoop these delicious treats into your mouth!**



### Green iguana

This fascinating reptile, found everywhere from Mexico to Caribbean islands, has a smooth body that makes it really fast as it runs as well as strong back legs that help it scamper up tree trunks faster than you can say "iguana"!

**Can you move like a green iguana? How fast can you run on all fours from one end of the room to another?**



### Tortoise

Tortoises...move...very...slowly... They also sleep up to 16 hours a day! They use long front claws to pull themselves along the ground. Because their slow movements make them easier targets for predators, tortoises also have thick shells that they tuck their bodies into for protection.

**Can you move like a tortoise? Set a timer for one minute and see who can crawl the SLOWEST.**



### Octopus

These sea creatures have eight flexible arms that help them crawl along the ocean floor. They also swim by "jet propulsion" – they collect water in a tube in their bodies and then squeeze into explosive blasts that shoot them through the water!

**Can you move like an octopus? The next time you take a bath, use your arms to propel you from the front of the bathtub to the back!**



### Tiger

Tigers are built for hunting and killing: sharp claws, enormous teeth and strong back legs made of mostly muscle to leap and pounce! Their soft paws help them slink and slither so gracefully and quietly that their prey may never hear them.

**Can you move like a tiger? Put an apple in the middle of the floor and creep up quietly on it, springing and leaping at the last minute to gain your fruit prize!**





# MEET THOMAS SHAHAN, BUG PHOTOGRAPHER!

Thomas Shahan is a Tulsa artist and photographer who is famous for his intricate, up-close pictures of insects from around the world. Not too long ago, he was a Tulsa kid just like you! You can see more of his bug photography at [www.thomasshahan.com](http://www.thomasshahan.com).



Names of bugs: male jumping spider or *Habronattus americanus* (the one with all of the eyes); red-bordered stinkbug or *Edessa rufomarginata* (the blue one); leaf-mimicking katydid or *Mimetica*.

**In this Q&A interview, Thomas tells us more about how he got involved in this interesting line of work, his favorite bug and his experience with the Tulsa City-County Library!**

Learn more about why **BUGS ARE BEAUTIFUL** at [www.tulsalibrary.org/kids-read-curious-world](http://www.tulsalibrary.org/kids-read-curious-world).

**Question: Why bugs? You are also an artist who does non-bug drawings and paintings. But what is it about taking photographs of insects up close that inspires you as an artist?**

Answer: Because arthropods are an unfortunately misunderstood group of animals - and even worse, they're often feared. They need some good PR - spiders are the good guys ecologically speaking! And they're an endless source of inspiration for an artist - there's just so much diversity and beauty out there. I could spend my whole life chasing bugs just in Oklahoma and never see them all!

**Question: What would you tell a kid who wants to learn more about insects - or photography?**

Answer: Just go outside and go slow - watch the ground, flowers, trees - there are beautiful bugs everywhere! You don't necessarily need to go anywhere either - I find a lot of the subjects I photograph in my own backyard here in Tulsa! And use whatever camera you have - cellphones take great pictures now and there are lots of cheap clip-on lenses to get in closer. (Also, get an iNaturalist account at [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org) so you can upload your observations and help others get an idea of what bugs are in our area!)

**Question: You were once a kid who used the Tulsa City-County Library. What is your best memory about the library?**

Answer: At some point in high-school, I remember wanting to look through Charles Griswold's "A Revision of the Jumping Spider Genus *Habronattus*" and was able to get it on loan through the library. Even though I didn't understand all the scientific lingo at the time, I loved looking through the illustrations and it got me excited about how much jumping spider diversity the US has.

**Question: What's your favorite bug or bug photograph?**

Answer: Not a "bug" I guess, but jumping spiders are definitely my favorite. Aside from being supercute, they're completely harmless and beneficial animals. They're the largest (in terms of species) family of spider, found all over the world, and often have fancy markings and striking colors. Given how attractive and personable they are, I've found even arachnophobic-leaning folks admitting they're cute. They're a great "gateway" spider to help people appreciate spiders.

## LEARN MORE!

Do you want to learn more about insects, spiders and bugs? Check out books in the 595 Dewey Decimal number of the Juvenile Nonfiction shelves at the library! Like this:

*The Book of Brilliant Bugs*  
by Jess French



# THE FOX & THE GRAPES

# ANIMAL SCRAMBLE

## A Classic Fable by Aesop

Have you heard the expression “that’s just sour grapes” before? It’s normally used when someone wants something, realizes they can’t get it, and then walks away as if they didn’t want it after all. “Sonny didn’t make it on the basketball team, but he says he doesn’t want to now because the basketball uniforms are ugly anyway. Sounds like sour grapes to me!”

Read this classic Aesop’s Fable which is the origin of the “sour grapes” expression. You can read more of Aesop’s Fables in books at the library or online at the Library of Congress: <http://www.read.gov/aesop/001.html>.

A Fox one day spied a beautiful bunch of ripe grapes hanging from a vine trained along the branches of a tree. The grapes seemed ready to burst with juice, and the Fox’s mouth watered as he gazed longingly at them.

The bunch hung from a high branch, and the Fox had to jump for it. The first time he jumped he missed it by a long way. So he walked off a short distance and took a running leap at it, only to fall short once more. Again and again he tried, but in vain.

Now he sat down and looked at the grapes in disgust.

“What a fool I am,” he said. “Here I am wearing myself out to get a bunch of sour grapes that are not worth gaping for.”

And off he walked very, very scornfully.

**Moral of the story: There are many who pretend to despise and belittle that is which beyond their reach.**



Can you unscramble these groups of words into sentences that make sense? Read “Swim, Leap, Crawl, Fly, Run!” first to give you the background information you need to do this. HINT: The first word of the sentence is capitalized and in bold and underlined.

**1. long have Flamingos and necks flexible**

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**2. help iguanas trunks green Strong back up run tree quickly legs**

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**3. tortoise place from a long It takes time place to for a move to**

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**4. special Beetles move that down up and muscles their have wings**

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**5. ball less a soccer weigh Marmosets than**

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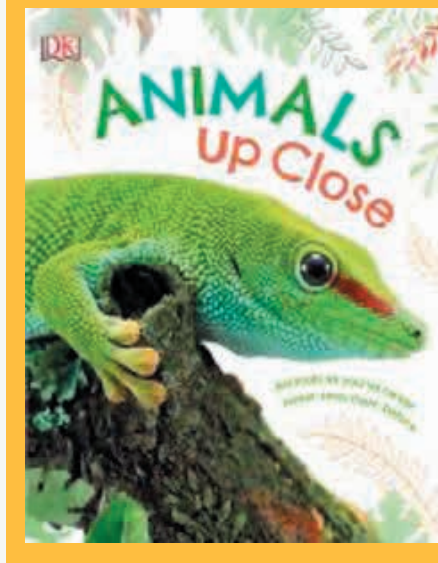
1. Flamingos have long and flexible necks. 2. Strong back legs help green iguanas run up tree trunks quickly. 3. It takes a long time for a tortoise to move from place to place. 4. Beetles have special muscles that move their wings up and down. 5. Marmosets weigh less than a soccer ball.



### LEARN MORE!

Do you want to learn more about these animals? Check out the 590s Dewey Decimal number of the Juvenile Nonfiction section at your library. You’ll find lots of books about interesting animals, including this one:

*Animals Up Close* by DK Publishing





# MAKE A CURIOUS CREATURES BOOK!

**What are your favorite animals? What animals would you like to learn more about?** This summer, create a book of “Curious Creatures” like this young writer and artist! After reading several books about animals (which she found at the library!), she decided to draw pictures and write sentences about peacocks, hamsters, cats, flamingos, sloths and parrots.

Here are some fun and curious creatures you could write about and draw! **Camel – Raccoon – Jellyfish – Toucan – Sloth – Scorpion – Praying mantis – Ostrich – Zebra – Kangaroo – Snow leopard – Hippo**



Visit Kids Read Curious World at [www.tulsalibrary.org/kids](http://www.tulsalibrary.org/kids) and find a variety of fun activities, reading lists, videos and more related to your favorite topics!

Previous and upcoming topics include:

