

RAINFOREST LIFE

In this packet, sample student answers are provided in red and notes to teachers are in blue.

In this **Mission Research** activity, students will apply their knowledge to classify plants and animals based on their characteristics. If students have difficulties classifying these animals, you can give them examples of animals they are more familiar with (such as a cat, dog, snake, or sunflower).

Extend the Lesson: After students complete this activity, divide the class into groups. Assign each group or each student a type of organism. Have them make a poster that lists the traits of that organism, provide at least five different examples of that type of organism, and shows the places they live. Have students present their posters to the class.





Before we study biodiversity, we need to be able to sort plants and animals into different groups.

1. Fill out Table 1. Use your **Mission Reader** to choose what kind of plant or animal is in each picture. Then, provide evidence for why you chose that type of organism. You can use each type or organism and evidence more than once.

Type of organism:

Pine tree
Flowering plant
Invertebrate/Arthropod
Fish
Amphibian
Reptile
Bird
Mammal

Evidence:

Has no backbone; has jointed legs
Has gills; body covered with scales
Has moist smooth skin; eggs have no shell
Has scaly skin; eggs have soft shell
Has hair; feeds young milk
Has feathers; eggs have hard shell; has wings
Plant; has cones
Plant; has flowers

Table 1. Types of organisms

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	Reptile	Has scaly skin; eggs have soft shell	
	Invertebrate / Arthropod	Has no backbone; has jointed legs	
	Bird	Has feathers; eggs have hard shell; has wings	



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Amphibian	Has moist smooth skin; eggs have no shell
Mammal	Has hair; feeds young milk
Pine tree	Plant: has cones
Fish	Has gills; body covered with scales
Flowering plant	Plant: has flowers