**Animal Class, Compare & Contrast**

**Directions:** The chart below presents the five vertebrate animal classes as well as some distinguishing traits they may or may not share. Try to complete the chart by using the following word bank: ALL, SOME, MOST, MANY, NONE. For extra credit, provide examples!

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | BIRDS | MAMMALS | FISH | REPTILES | AMPHIBIANS |
| Warm-blooded | ALL | ALL | NONE | NONE | NONE |
| Bipedal  (2-legged) | ALL | SOME  (humans for instance) | NONE | NONE | NONE |
| Have nails/claws | ALL | ALL | NONE | SOME  Turtles & lizards often have nails but snakes certainly don’t! | NONE |
| Breathe with Lungs | ALL  Birds also breathe with air sacs! | ALL | NONE  Fish breathe through gills rather than lungs. | ALL | MOST  Some salamanders breathe entirely through their skin! |
| Lay Eggs | ALL | SOME  The platypus & echidnas are the only known egg-laying mammals | MOST  Some fish, like sharks, give birth to live young. | MOST  Several snakes & lizards give birth to live young! | MOST  Many caecilians give birth to live young as do a few frog species. |
| Fly | MOST  Penguins & kiwis and ostriches & emus are just a few flightless bird species. | SOME  The only mammal that can truly fly is a bat. | NONE  Flying fish don’t actually fly; they glide. | NONE  Some snakes can glide; no reptile is capable of flight. | NONE  No amphibian is capable of actual flight. |
| Swim | MANY  Loons, ducks, geese, and penguins are excellent swimmers! | MANY  There are a surprising number of mammals capable of swimming.  From squirrels to elephants, who can you think of? | ALL | MANY  Reptiles can be excellent swimmers. Crocs, alligators, sea turtles and marine iguanas are examples. | MANY  Aquatic frogs and salamanders are excellent swimmers and almost every amphibian hatches in water! |
| Migrate | MANY | SOME  Notably reindeer, bats, porpoise and whales. | SOME  Salmon migrate to freshwater to spawn and some freshwater eels do the opposite! | MANY  Many reptiles, like turtles, migrate long distances for breeding purposes. | SOME  Frogs & salamanders are notorious for making migrations to vernal pools for breeding in early spring. |