Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

South Australian Museum

Classification – Year 7
Mammals of the World.

This Outreach Education Program for schools is made possible by the partnership between the South Australian Museum and the Department for Education and Child Development. Outreach Education is a team of seconded teachers who are based in public institutions.

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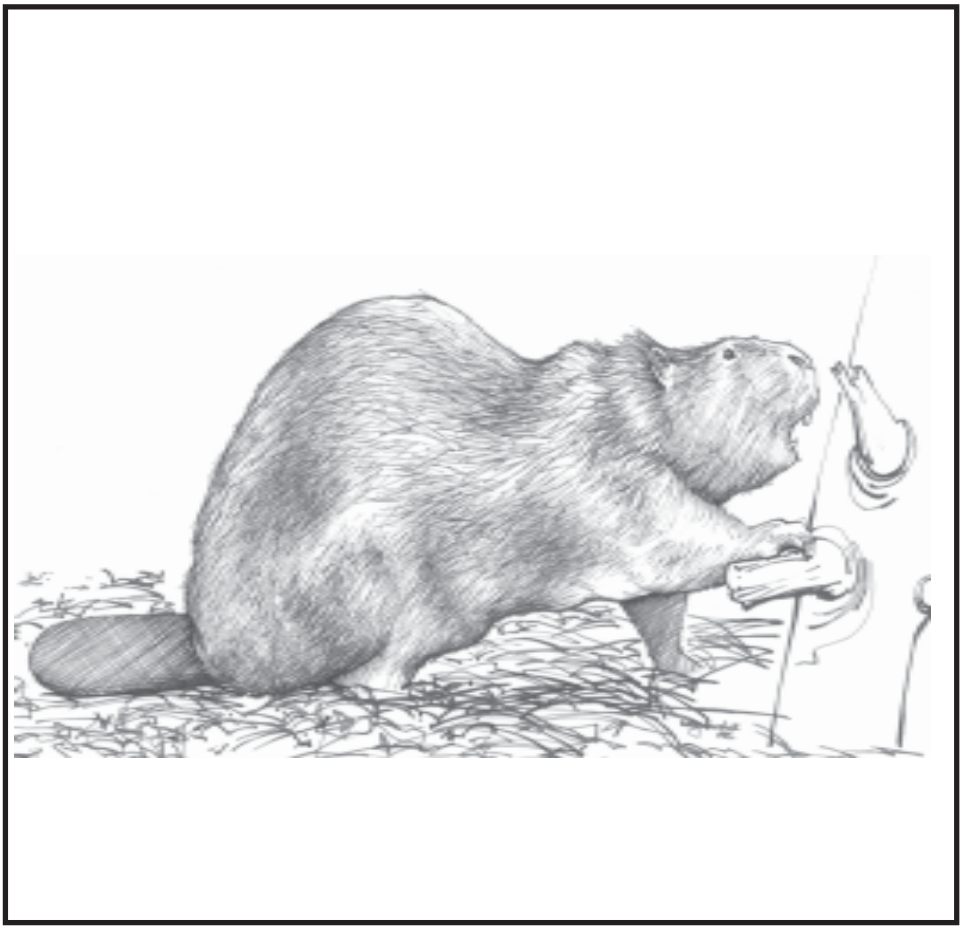


South Australian Biodiversity Gallery
Classification

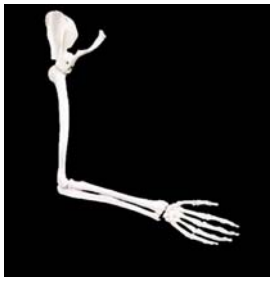
What's in a name?

There are very few places on Earth that are not affected by humans. Some animals and plants have flourished because of human activity. Most species have been adversely affected. We humans need to be aware of our impact on the environment, partly for the sake of other species, but importantly for our own survival.

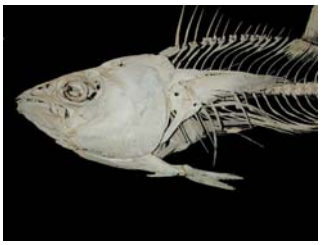
If we are to protect our environment, it is vital that we know what lives in it. This is where the taxonomists at the museum play an important role. Taxonomists collect and name animals and publish papers so other scientists can reliably identify the animals they are studying in the wild.

First stop – Whale skeletons

Taxonomists have developed rules for naming species. They sort species into groups to show how they are related. Sometimes it is obvious animals are related by just looking at them. For example, it is easy to see humans and gorillas are related. We have many features in common. However sometimes we need to look beneath the skin. For example, humans and whales are both placed in the group **mammals**. What do they have in common? Most people know they are both warm-blooded and drink milk when young, but the similarities go beyond this.



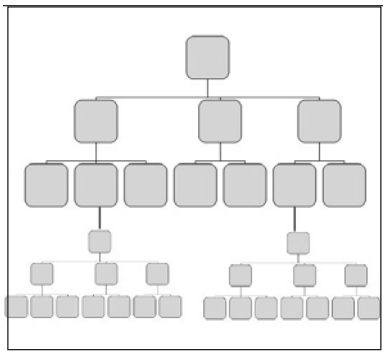
Check out the huge whale skeletons and compare them with your skeleton. For example, what are the similarities between human arm bones and whale flipper bones? If you look carefully at the bones you can see evidence that whales are more closely to humans that to fish – even though their body is fish-shaped. Take a look.



A classification system

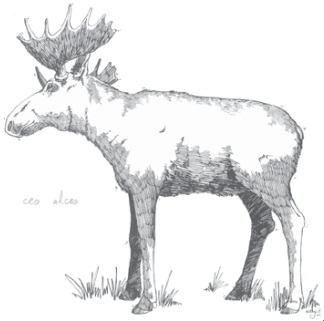
By looking carefully at the similarities and differences between species, scientists can place them in groups. The animal kingdom is divided into **Phyla**. Whin each **phylum** there are groups (called Classes) of animals have important similarities. These are further split in to Orders, which are divided into Families, then Genus then species.

Kingdom > Phylum > Class > Order > Family > Genus > species

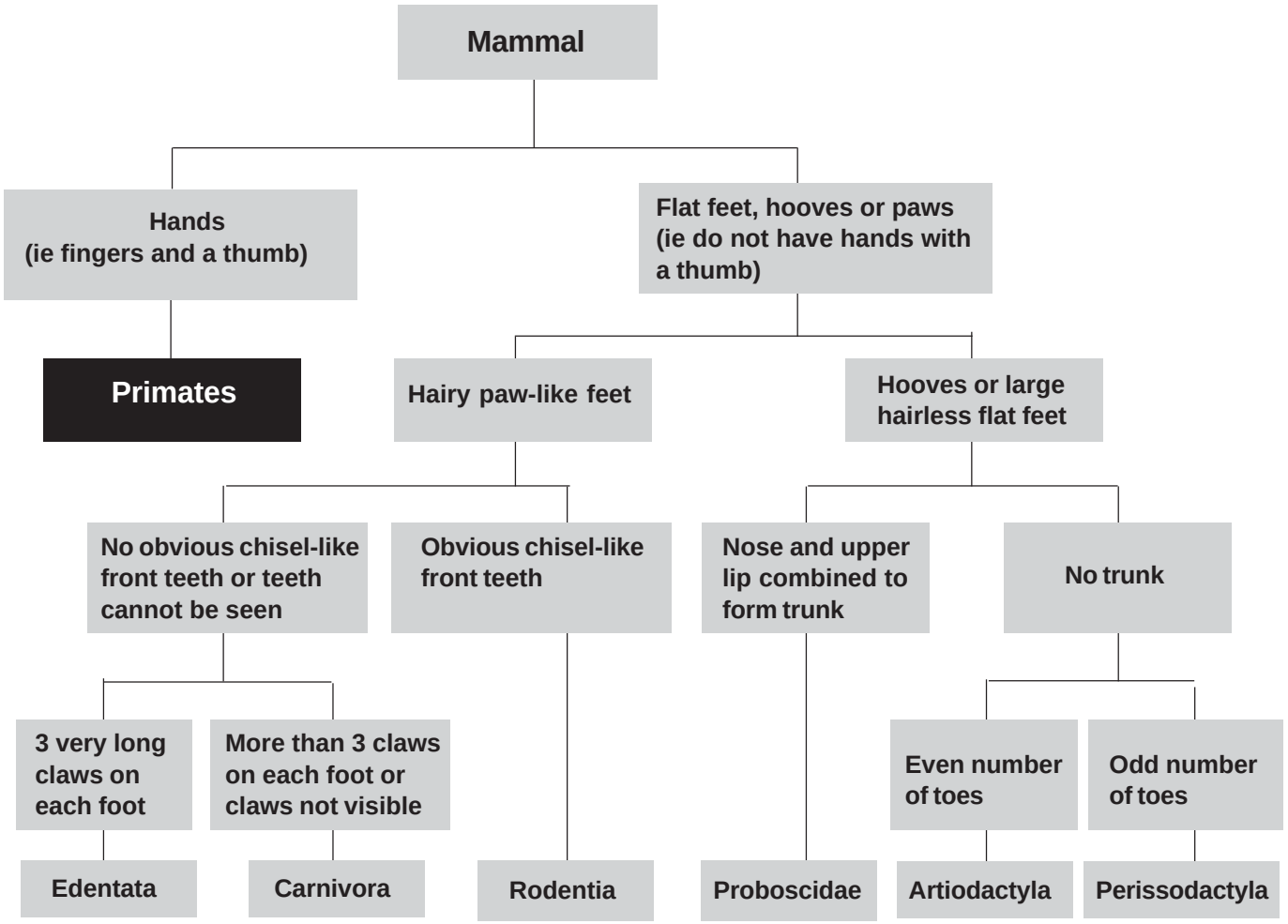


World Mammal Gallery

Move to the Wolrd Mammals Gallert and use the keys on the following two pages to put some of the mammals into groups with their relatives.



Key to orders of selected mammals



This mammal key will only work for the mammals listed below.
Use it to find the orders for the following mammals.

African region
Hamadryas baboon .....
Zebra .....
Spotted hyena .....
Gorilla .....
Hippopotamus .....
Leopard .....
Roan antelope.....
Ruffed lemur .....

Eurasian region
Polar bear .....
Moose .....

Tropical Asian region
Javan rhinoceros .....
Elephant .....
Axis deer .....
Slow loris .....

North American region
Beaver.....
Black bear .....

South American region
Humbolt's woolly monkey .....
Three-Toed sloth .....
Coypu .....
Llama .....

Classify

Classify some members of the order artiodactlya to family level using the key below.

Mammal	Family
African region	
Roan antelope	
Hippopotamus	
Tropical Asian region	
Wild boar	
Lesser Malayan chevrotain	
Axis deer	
Blackbuck	
Eurasian region	
Moose	
Wapiti	
Mouflon	
North American region	
Rocky mountain goat	

Key to some of the families in the order artiodactyla