Animals: The Vertebrates

Animals with backbones: Fishes, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, Mammals

Outline

- 1. Key concepts
- 2. Evolution of the Vertebrates
- 3. Overview of the Chordata
- 4. Classification
- 5. Major groups and representatives
- 6. Conclusions

Key Concepts:

- The Chordates include invertebrate and vertebrate species
- 2. Existing invertebrate chordates include the tunicates and lancelets
- 3. There are several groups of vertebrates with living representatives









- Some invertebrates
- Vertebrates
 - Backbone
 - Brain in skull or chamber
- 3. features in embryos
 - Notochord a stiff but flexible rod (for muscle attachment); In vertebrates, the notochord develops into the vertebral column
 - into the vertebrai colum
 - Nerve chord (dorsal, hollow)
 - Pharynx with slits
 - Tail that extends past anus

Chordata Classification

Three subphyla

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Seven classes of vertebrates 1. Agnatha (Jawless fishes)

- 1. Urochordata Tunicates
- Lancelets
- Vertebrata
- Craniates
- (Cartilaginous fishes) Cephalochordata 3. Osteichthyes (Bony fishes)

2. Chondrichthyes

- 4. Amphibia 5. Reptilia
- 6. Aves ???
- 7. Mammalia















Existing Jawed Fishes

- 1. Dominant vertebrates
- 2. Cartilaginous fishes (ca. 1,000) Sharks, rays, chimaeras
- 3. Bony fishes (30,000 species) Most numerous and diverse









Amphibians

•Amphibians Are Terrestrial Animals That Begin Their Lives in Water (6,500 species)

•Amphibians are only partially adapted to a terrestrial life.

•Most amphibian life begins at fertilization in water.

•The fertilized egg develops into an aquatic tadpole which obtains oxygen through its gills.

•Lungs, smooth skin for gas exchange as adults; gills as tadpoles. Limbs in adult stage instead of fins. •External fertilization.

•The tadpole undergoes metamorphosis to become a terrestrial adult.









- Salamanders walk like fish swim Bending side to side Frogs and toads are
- most successful amphibians Powerful muscles
- Caecilians No limbs Live in soil





The Rise of Reptiles

8,200 + species

- **1**. From amphibians
- 2. Escape from aquatic habitats
- 3. Adaptation
 - 1. Tough, dry, scaly skin (prevents water loss)
 - 2. Internal fertilization
 - 3. Reptilian kidneys conserve water
 - 4. Production of amniotic eggs

The Rise of Reptiles

• The amnion is a membrane within the egg that encloses the embryo within a fluid environment.

• The amniotic egg eliminated the need for an aquatic stage of the life cycle.

The amniotic egg was so successful that it is seen in all reptiles as well as their descendents.

• For example, all birds and mammals contain an amniotic egg.



New Zealand









10,000 species

Traits shared with reptiles: scales on feet, amniotic eggs

Birds

- Beaks
- Feathers (flight, heat conservation and social displays)
- Light, hollow bones
- Digestive organs called gizzards















In Conclusion

- 1. Chordate embryos have a notochord, a dorsal nerve cord, a pharynx with gill slits, and a tail
- 2. There are several groups of vertebrates with living representatives
- 3. The earliest vertebrates are the jawless fishes
- 4. Amphibians were the first vertebrates to invade land but they never fully escaped the water

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In Conclusion

- 5. *Reptiles escaped the water*
- 6. Birds alone have feathers, which they use in flight, heat conservation, and social displays
- 7. Mammals have milk-producing mammary glands, hair, and a highly developed cerebral cortex

