

Animal Classification

Chapter 16: Animal Classification · Topic 1

Key Concept

Animals are broadly divided into vertebrates (having a backbone) and invertebrates (lacking a backbone), with invertebrates being far more numerous.

Vertebrates are further classified into fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, each with distinct characteristics and adaptations.

Invertebrates include diverse groups like insects, molluscs, and worms, showing incredible variety in body structure and habitat.

This classification system helps scientists study relationships between animals, their evolution, and adaptations to different environments.

Quick Revision Notes

- Animals: vertebrates (backbone) or invertebrates.
- Invertebrates are far more numerous.
- Vertebrates: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals.
- Each has distinct characteristics.
- Invertebrates: insects, molluscs, worms.
- Show incredible body structure variety.
- Classification helps study relationships, evolution.
- Also adaptations to environments.

Practice Questions

- 1 Classify five animals as vertebrates or invertebrates.
- 2 List the five vertebrate classes with an example each.
- 3 Research an invertebrate group like molluscs.
- 4 Discuss why invertebrates are more numerous.
- 5 Discuss an adaptation of a specific animal class.
- 6 Explain animal classification in your own words.