

Traits and Groups

1. Choose one of the following organisms:

- Dolphin
- Lamprey
- Snail
- Penguin

2. Consider the organism groups listed below. Make a claim about the most specific group (least inclusive) that your organism belongs to.

- **Animals:** Multicellular; eat other organisms for food; no cell walls
- **Vertebrates:** Most have a backbone or spinal column; spinal cord; top of spinal cord becomes a brain
- **Mammals:** Vertebrates with hair; breathe air; four-chambered hearts; generate heat internally; females make milk
- **Reptiles:** Vertebrates with dry scales; lungs; eggs with many membranes (amniotic egg)
- **Fish:** Vertebrates with gills; paired fins; scales; aquatic
- **Birds:** Reptile-like vertebrate; feathers; generate heat internally; two legs covered in scales; two wings

3. Support your claim with evidence.

I claim that the organism _____ belongs to the group _____.

My evidence is _____

4. Explain your scientific reasoning. Use science ideas about traits and scientists' ways of grouping organisms to link your evidence to your claim.
