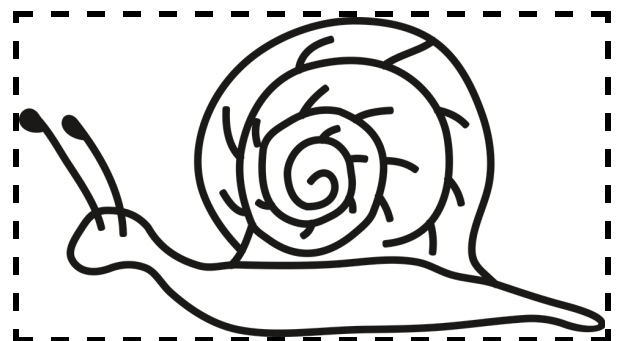
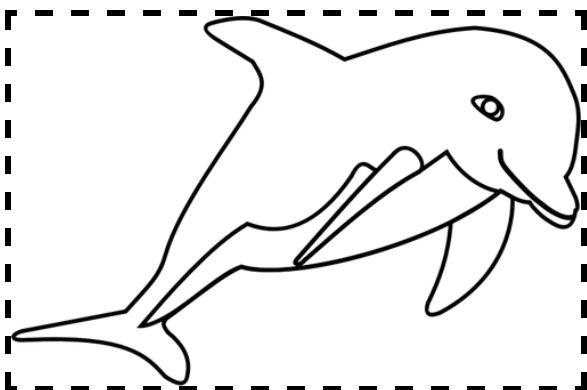
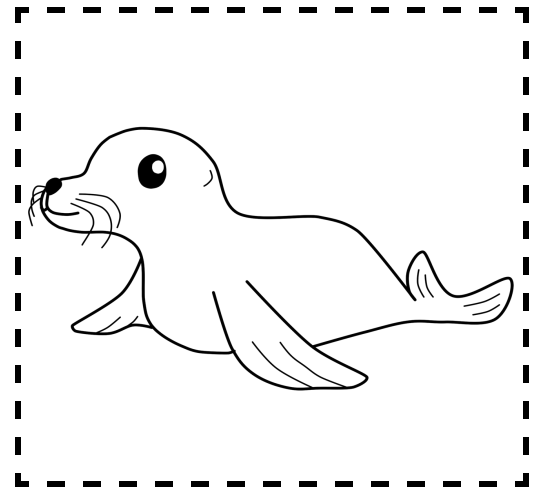
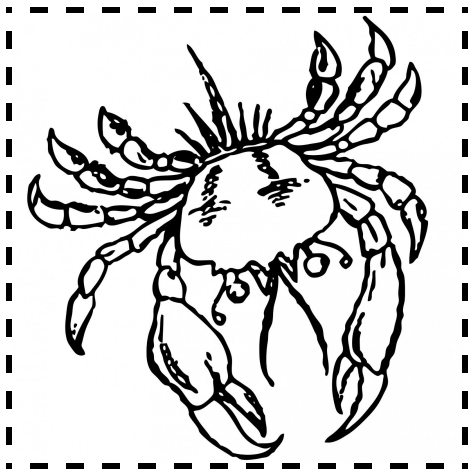
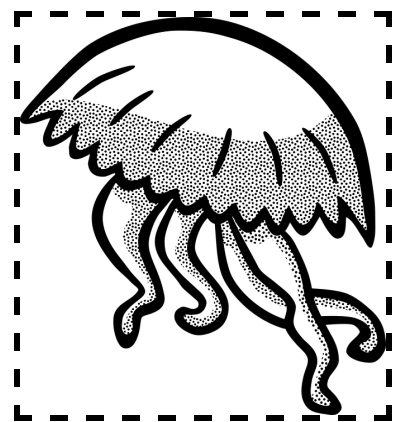
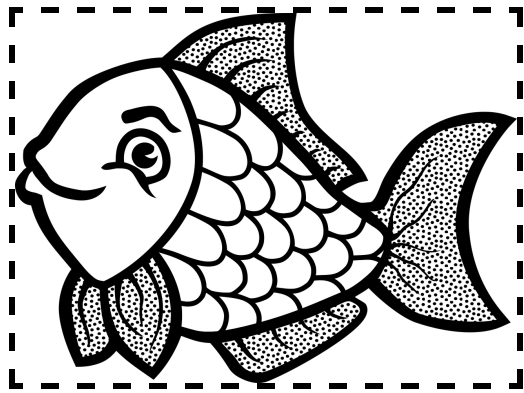


# Vertebrate or Invertebrate?

All animals can be divided into two main categories, vertebrates and invertebrates. A **vertebrate** is an animal that has a backbone and a skeleton on the inside of their bodies. An **invertebrate** is an animal without a backbone and no internal (inside) skeleton, however some have a skeleton on the outside of their bodies, which is called an exoskeleton, or have shells for protection. Most animals on the planet are invertebrates! It may seem like we have more vertebrates because they are larger and we can see them (like bears, tigers, dolphins, and sea lions), but invertebrates are all around us every day! Most of them are much smaller and we do not always see them.

**Directions**- Color the animals below. Cut them out and then paste them in the vertebrate or invertebrate category on the following page:



**Vertebrates**

**Invertebrates**