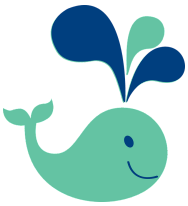

Vertebrate or Invertebrate?

All living organisms on the planet are divided into categories based on their similarities. Two main categories animals are separated into are vertebrates and invertebrates. A **vertebrate** is an animal that has a backbone and an internal (inside) skeleton. An **invertebrate** is an animal without a backbone and no internal 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. Invertebrates have amazing adaptations, or characteristics, that help them survive in their specific habitats. Some are terrestrial (live on land) while others can live in fresh or saltwater.

Directions- Using the list of animals and the table below, write the animal's name, if it is a vertebrate or invertebrate, where they live, and two adaptations that you think help them survive:

Sea jelly **Fox** **Sea horse** **Beetle** **Butterfly**

Eagle **Octopus** **Whale** **Ant** **Eel**

Animal	Vertebrate/Invertebrate	Land or Water	Adaptations