

# FUR, FEATHERS, AND SCALES

## Objective

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The students will be able to place animals into groups based on their physical characteristics – body coverings.

## Materials Needed

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- Fur, Feathers and Scales Worksheets 1 and 2 (one copy per student)
- Scissors, glue
- Fur, feathers, and scales
- Animal Poster

## Directions

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Ask the students to sit in a circle and lead a discussion while the students examine the three types of body coverings. Materials needed for this section – body coverings and poster.

Discussion points:

- The body coverings come from different kinds of animals.
- Name an animal that has fur. (cat, dog, bear, rabbit)
- Animals that have fur are called mammals.
- Name an animal that has feathers. (duck, chicken, parrot, robin)
- Animals that have feathers are called birds.
- Name an animal that has scales. (snake, turtle, lizard)
- Animals that have scales are called reptiles.
  
- Which body coverings feel soft?
- Which ones feel rough?
- What colors do you see on each one?
  
- Name one way fur helps the animal to survive. (warmth)
- Name one way scales help the animal to survive. (protection)
- Name one way feathers help the animal to survive. (flight, warmth)



At their desks, give each student the worksheets 1 and 2. Show worksheet 2 and point out the three animal categories and the empty boxes. Ask the students to color and cut out the animals on worksheet 1 and glue them in the correct columns of worksheet 2. Discussion:

- Which group does our pet fit into?
- What are some other characteristics that mammals have in common? (warm-blooded, live babies, milk for babies)

## Body Coverings

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Reptiles shed or molt their skin every month or so depending on the animal. Reptiles molt as their body grows and continue to shed the dead skin as adults. The scales included in this packet have been disinfected for handling.

Birds molt their feathers one or two times a year – replacing old feathers with new. The new feathers come out one at a time and a new feather grows right in the same place. This keeps the feathers in good shape for flight. The feathers in this packet have been disinfected for handling.

The fur included in the packet is not real, but will help the children understand the characteristics of mammals. Some animal hair is hollow which helps with insulation. Some animals have an undercoat of thicker hair to also help with warmth.

## Animal Characteristics

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	Body Coverings	Body Heat	Young	Food for Young
<b>Mammals</b>	Fur	Maintain constant temperature	Give birth	Mother has milk
<b>Birds</b>	Feathers	Maintain constant temperature	Lay eggs	Fed or find on own
<b>Reptiles</b>	Scales	Obtain heat from environment	Give birth & lay eggs	Mostly find on own



# Animals



# Animals

## Birds



## Mammals



## Reptiles

