

For Creative Minds

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Animal Sorting Cards & Activities

Sleeping Animal Matching Activity: Guess which animal goes with each fun fact by matching it to the art. Answers are upside down on the bottom of each page. Copied cards can be sorted by animal class or what the animals eat.



1. *Hanging upside down*, a _____ sleeps 15 to 18 hours during the day. It holds tightly to a branch with its strong claws while sleeping soundly. Not even a loud rainforest thunderstorm will wake it. When the sun goes down, it finally moves from its sleeping position.
2. With perfect balance, a _____ often *sleeps standing on one leg* facing into the wind. It folds the other leg neatly beneath its body and rests its head by tucking its beak under one wing.
3. This brightly colored _____ lives in the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean. This tiny fish protects itself from enemies searching for a tasty meal by *hiding inside* an animal called a sea anemone. The long, flowing arms of the anemone will sting most sea creatures, but the poison in its arms does not hurt the fish. At night, the fish snuggles into its cozy sea anemone bed. The anemone's soft arms close around it, keeping it comfortable and safe until morning.

Answers: 1. sloth, 2. flamingo, 3. clownfish



Bee-eater

Bird

eats bees and insects
(carnivore)



Lizard

Reptile

most eat insects and
bug, some eat plants
(carnivore, some
omnivore)



Groundhog

Mammal

eats mostly plants
and some insects
(omnivore)

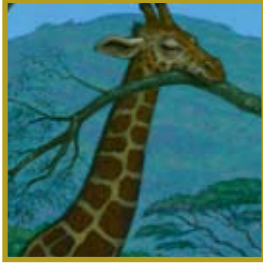


Polar Bear

Mammal

eats seals and
other animals
(carnivore)

1. A _____ is a cold-blooded animal. Its body does not make heat, so it must find heat to warm itself. *Stretching on a sunny rock* is the perfect place for a nap on a cool morning.
2. Exposed and dozing on the snow, a _____ and her cubs stay surprisingly warm. These bears dig and then *snuggle into shallow pits* in the snow with their backs to the wind. Thick fur and a layer of fat keep them warm. A mother bear makes a soft pillow for her cubs.
3. The _____ is famous for its sleeping habits. It hibernates, or sleeps, all winter long *curled in an underground burrow*. During hibernation its heartbeat and breathing slows down and its body temperature drops. There is a special day (February 2) in honor of this animal. Some people believe that if he sees his shadow when he comes out of hibernation, there will be six more weeks of winter.
4. A tiny _____ likes to *sleep together with others at night*. Up to ten will line up on the same perch, arriving before dusk to claim their place in line. They all face the same direction and press their sides against each other before closing their eyes to sleep.



Giraffe

Mammal
eats leaves
(herbivore)



Lion

Mammal
eats other animals
(carnivore)



Harbor Seal

Mammal
eats fish and other
animals
(carnivore)



Koala

Mammal
eats plants
(herbivore)

1. Living high in eucalyptus trees, an Australian_____spends most of its life sleeping. It usually sleeps 18 to 20 hours each day. It *tucks into a fork of tree branches* to snooze.
2. A_____may *sleep on the beach or while floating in water*. It is lulled to sleep as it gently bobs up and down with only its head above water.
3. A_____sleeps about five minutes at a time, *standing up*. It sleeps about six times a day for a total of about 30 minutes.
4. *Curled on a limb* of a shade tree or stretched out on a rock, a_____takes many catnaps during the day. If it has a full stomach, it may sleep up to 20 hours a day.



Elephant

Mammal

eats leaves and plants
(herbivore)



Barn Owl

Bird

eats small animals
(carnivore)



Human

Mammal

eats plants and
animals
(omnivore)



Common Swift

Bird

eats bugs and insects
(carnivore)

1. A _____ leaves its baby chicks for several days when it hunts for food. While the parents are gone, the young birds enter a deep sleep, called torpor, for up to ten days. Some adults *sleep while flying*, called "sleeping on the wing." At night, they fly above a pocket of warm air (about 3,000 to 6,000 feet above ground) and flap their wings about every four seconds as they sleep.
2. _____ babies sleep about 16 hours a day. As they get older, they need less sleep. Children ages 1-5 sleep *tucked in their own beds* about 10 to 12 hours each night. How many hours do you sleep at night?
3. During the day, a _____ may *roost in a barn, tree, or cave*. Once asleep, this bird is not easily disturbed by loud daytime noises. It keeps its head upright while it sleeps.
4. An _____ stands for about half of the four-to-six hours it sleeps each day. The other times it sleeps lying down. Most of its sleeping is in short little naps. When it is ready to lie down, it will sometimes *curl up its trunk and use it for a pillow!*

Answers: 1. common swifts, 2. human, 3. barn owl, 4. elephant