**Classification Activity 1: The Animal Kingdom: “Talk to the Animals”**

**PrimaryPrimary**

**Critical**Australian Curriculum General Capability: **Critical and creative thinking**

**Literacy**Australian Curriculum General Capability: **Literacy**

*For taxonomists [scientist who classify organisms], days often start – and sometimes end – with the question: what’s that?*

What do you already know about animals?

Talk over with the person beside you.

Fill out the following table: List 10 animals you can think of and compare with a partner.

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| Animal Name | Animal Name |
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**Song: Talk to the Animals**

Look at the following video from Doctor Dolittle and the song “Talk to the animals”.

[**https://youtu.be/YpBPavEDQCk**](https://youtu.be/YpBPavEDQCk)

The following lyrics for the Academy Award song: “Talk to the Animals” is written here below. Highlight the names of the animals in the song.

**Song: Talk to the Animals**

…If I could talk to the animals, just imagine it  
Chattin' with a chimp in chimpanzee   
Imagine talking to a tiger, chatting with a cheetah  
What a neat achievement that would be!



If we could talk to the animals, learn their languages  
Maybe take an animal degree  
I'd study elephant and eagle, buffalo and beagle  
Alligator, guinea pig, and flea!

I would converse in polar bear and python  
And I would curse in fluent kangaroo  
If people ask me, "Can you speak rhinoceros?"  
I'd say, "Of courserous! Can't you?"

If I conferred with our furry friends, man to animal  
Think of the amazing repartee  
If I could walk with the animals, talk with the animals  
Grunt and squeak and squawk with the animals  
And they could talk to me!



If I consulted with quadrupeds  
Think what fun we'd have asking over crocodiles for tea  
Or maybe lunch with two or three lions, walruses and sea lions   
What a lovely place the world would be

If I spoke slang to an orangutan  
The advantages why any fool on earth could plainly see  
Discussing Eastern art and dramas with intellectual llamas  
That's a big step forward you'll agree

I'd learn to speak in antelope and turtle   
And my Pekingese would be extremely good  
If I were asked to sing in hippopotamus  
I'd say, "Whynotamous? and would!



If I could parlay with pachyderms  
It's a fairy tale worthy of Hans Anderson or Grimm  
A man who walks with the animals and talks with the animals  
Grunts and squeaks and squawks with the animals  
And they could talk to him [This is the most exciting thing that has ever happened to me. I can’t wait to start. It’s incredible. It’s impossible. But it’s true.]

A man can talk to the animals. It’s a miracle. In a year from now I guarantee  
I will be the marvel of the mammals  
Play chess with camels  
No more just a boring old MD



I'd study every creature's language  
So I could speak to all of them on sight  
If friends said, "Can he talk in crab or maybe pelican?"  
You'd say, "Like hell he can and you'd be right"

Yes if you just stop and think of it ain't no doubt of it  
I'm gonna win a place in history  
If I could walk with the animals talk with the animals  
Grunt, squeak, squawk with the animals

And they could squeak and squawk and speak and talk to me.

Put the animals listed in the song into the following categories:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mammals | Birds | Insects | Crustaceans | Reptiles |
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**Analysing the song: Think about the following facts:**

1. Mammals, Birds and Reptiles are vertebrates. They have a backbone.
2. Insects and Crustaceans are invertebrates. They have an exoskeleton.
3. Insects: are the most diverse group of animals on the planet including more than a million describes species and representing more than half of all known living organisms.
4. Are any domestic animals in the song? Why/Why not?
5. Does the song “Talk to the animals” really show the expanse of the Animal Kingdom? Explain.
6. Write another verse – this time introducing 5 more animals one from mammals; birds; insects; crustaceans; and, reptiles.