

27: Miscellaneous Little Fuzzy Things

The next order of mammals has large claws used for either digging or hanging from trees. They seem to be missing a lot of their teeth, so they are called **edentate** (meaning “out” + “teeth”). They are the anteaters, tree sloths and armadillos. Each of these is a curiosity in itself.

One small and unfamiliar mammal is in an order by itself. It is called a **pangolin**, and it lives in Africa and southeast Asia. It reminds us a lot of an armadillo because it has a long head and is covered with armor-like plates. This animal has no teeth at all.

From the pangolins we take a big jump to the rabbits, hares and pikas. Together they make up the **lagomorphs**. They are best known for their large ears, short tails and big front teeth (**incisors**). Most people don’t know that they also have a smaller set of teeth directly behind the front ones.

The next order of small mammals is **Rodentia**, the rodents. These are known for having incisors that continue to grow throughout their lives. They keep those incisors small by munching on hard things. These famous animals are also known for being pests. They are often found in houses, munching where we don’t want them to munch, on such things as our woodwork, wallboards and the food in our cabinets. A list of rodents is provided in Table 1.

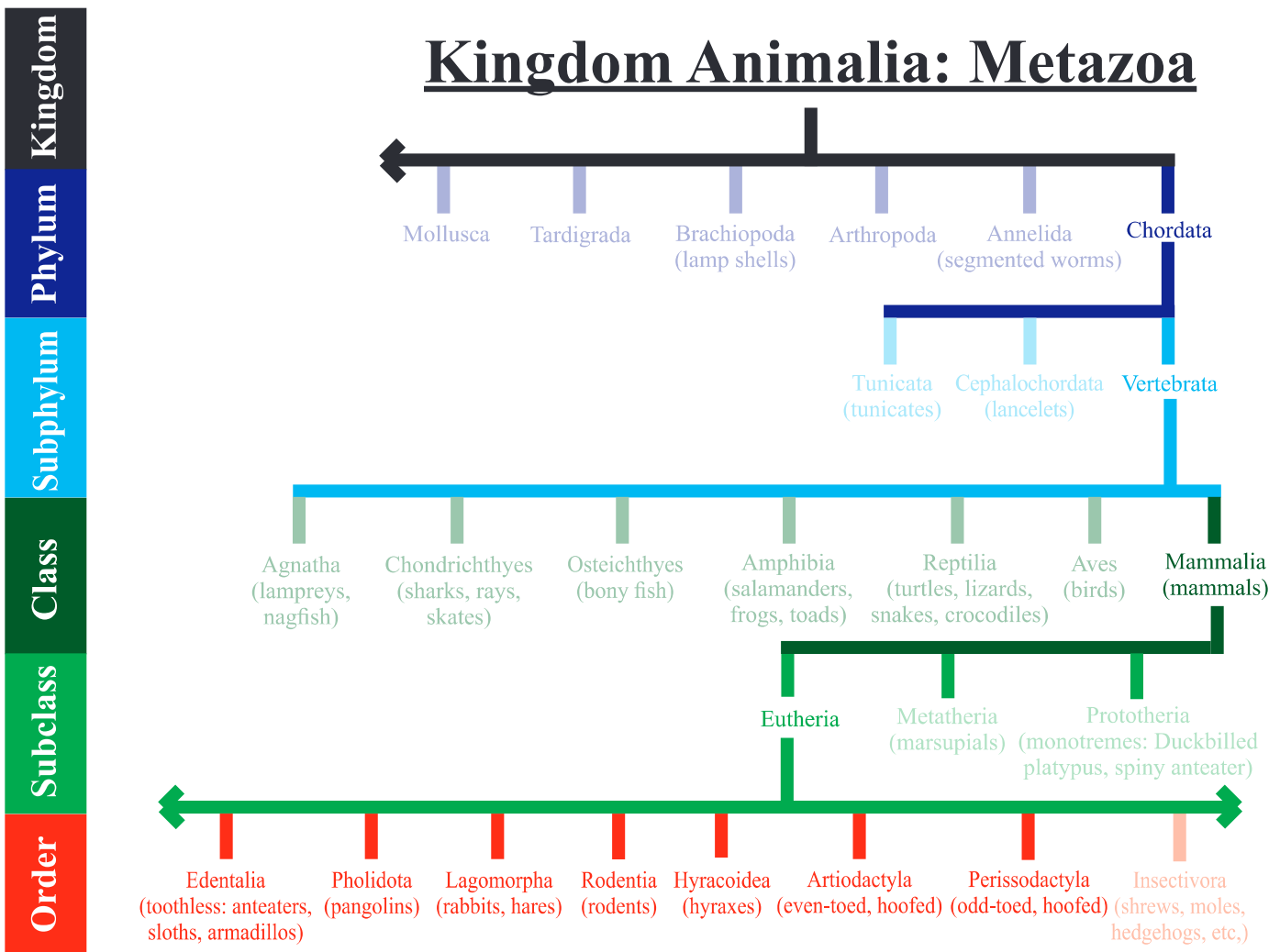


TABLE 1: RODENTS

pocket gophers	cane rats	dormice	spiny rats	tuco-tucos
mountain beavers	mole rats	jerboas	chinchillas	cavies
kangaroo rats	bamboo rats	rock mice	viscachas	capybaras
African mole rats	old world rats	mice	coypus	squirrels
chinchilla rats	old world mice	jumping mice	springhares	agoutis
old world porcupines	pocket mice	false pacas	hutias	pectinators
new world porcupines	spiny dormice	pacas	octodonts	beavers
scaly-tailed squirrels	desert dormice			

The **hyraxes** are next. These are small climbing mammals that live in Africa and parts of Asia. They are **herbivores** (that is, they eat only plants). They don't have much of a tail and look like woodchucks, but they have hooves on their feet.

The many common and well-known **hoofed animals** (Table 2) are usually divided on the basis of whether they have odd-numbered or even-numbered toes. The two orders are listed separately in the Table.

TABLE 2: HOOFED ANIMALS

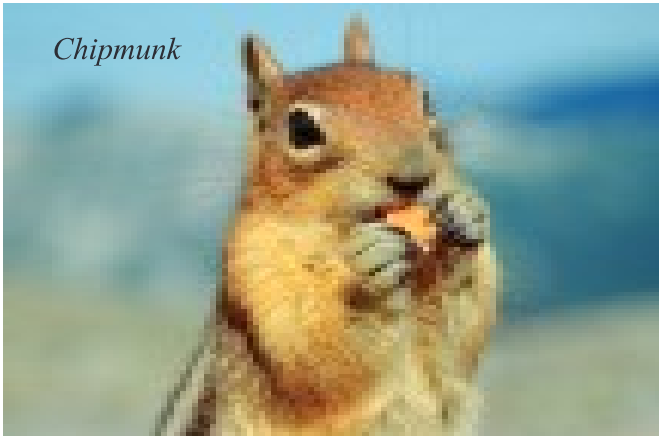
Odd-toed:	Even-toed:	
horses	swine	giraffes
tapirs	peccaries	okapis
rhinoceroses	hippopotamuses	pronghorns
	camels	cattle
	llamas	antelope
	chevrotains	sheep & goats
	deer & other deer-like animals	

These animals are rodents.

Groundhog (also called a woodchuck)



A guinea pig is a cavy—a particular type of rodent. In this case, a particularly friendly type. Guinea pigs make excellent pets.





Beaver

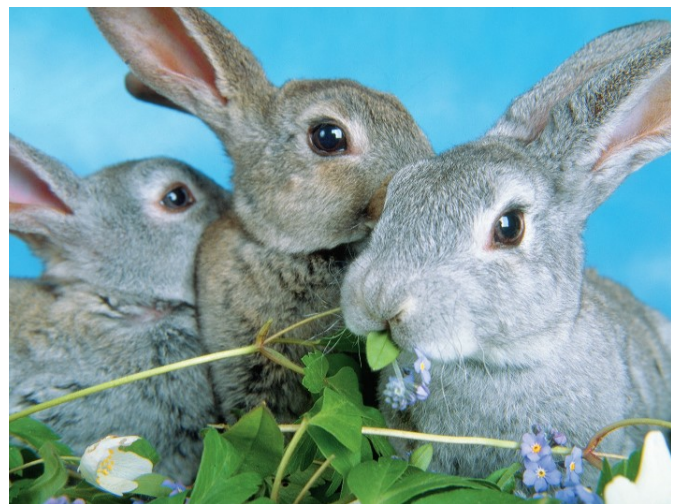


Porcupine



Wood rat

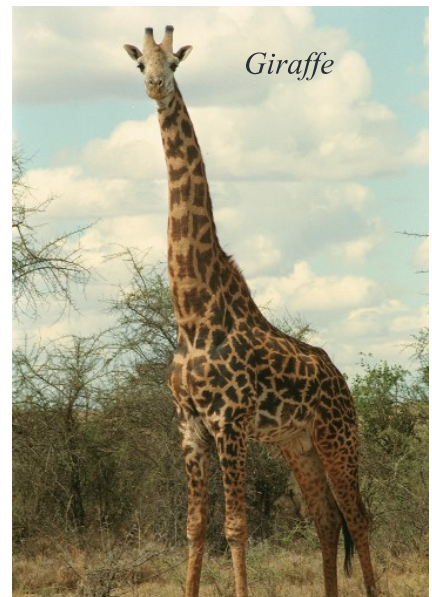
Rabbits are lagomorphs.



The rhinoceroses (left) and zebra (right) are odd-toed, hoofed animals called Perissodactyla.



These are even-toed, hoofed animals called Artiodactyla.



Exercises:

1. The small mammals are categorized into many orders. The best known of these animals are among the _____ (somarghpol) and the _____ (deonrts).
2. Are all of the animals in this lesson among the Eutheria?
3. Are they vertebrates?
4. Are they chordates?
5. Are they fungi?