

## GRADE

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

## STATE STANDARDS

- 3-LS2-1

## MATERIALS

- Clipboards
- Pencils
- Worksheet

## Animal Groups

**Introduction:** Students identify why some animals live in groups and what the groups are called.

**Goal:** Students will practice their observation and critical thinking skills as they identify and explore why animals form groups and what the groups are called.

**Instructions:** Students will observe the six animals listed on their worksheet. Encourage the students to read the information signs and talk to zoo staff for clues about animal groups. The students should use the information they got and use the word bank on the worksheet to match the animals to their group names. Students will then write two reasons why animals would live in groups.

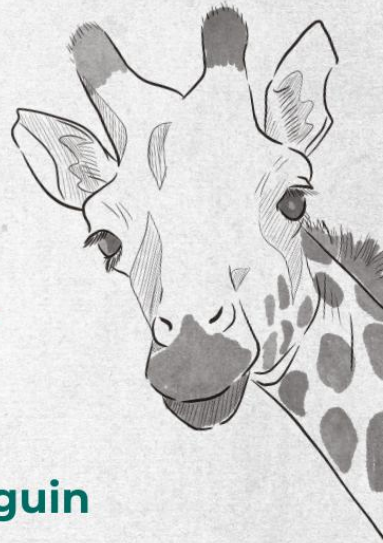
**Background Information:** Many animals live in groups to help them survive. Living in groups can make it easier to find food, protect themselves from predators, and care for their young. Different animals form different types of groups. For example, lions live in groups called prides. Working together helps them hunt and protect their territory. Some birds, like flamingos, gather in large groups called flocks. Living in flocks can help birds find food and warn each other if a predator is nearby. Other animals, like ants or butterflies, work together in colonies where each member has a special job. These group behaviors help the entire population survive and continue living in their ecosystem.

**Conservation Message:** Animals depend on each other and their ecosystems to survive. When ecosystems are damaged or destroyed, animal groups may not be able to find food, water, shelter, or space to live together. We can help protect animals by keeping our planet clean, reducing pollution, recycling, and supporting conservation efforts. When we protect animal ecosystems, we help animal groups continue to work together and survive.

### Answer Key (examples):

- Penguins live in a colony to conserve heat and have protection.
- Orangutans live in a buffoonery to socialize. They are semi-solitary but come together to “party” (aggregate) and eat when there is a lot of fruit for everyone to eat.
- Zebras live in a dazzle or herd for protection and for social interaction.
- Giraffes live in a tower for protection and for female giraffes to watch other calves while the mom forges for food.
- Kangaroos live in a mob for protection and for social interaction.
- Hyenas live in a clan or cackle to make hunting more efficient and to help defend their territory.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Directions:

Use the word bank to match the animal group name to the animal. Use clues from the animals' habitats, information signs, and zoo staff.

**Giraffe**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Orangutan**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Penguin**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hyena**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Stingray**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Kangaroo**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Colony**

**Mob**

**Tower**

**Buffoonery**

**Fever**

**Cackle**

What are two reasons why animals would want to live in a group?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_