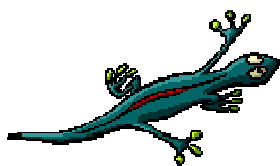


Ballot to Elect Classroom Symbols

Please mark an X in the box next to the name of the animal you are voting for to become your class symbol.

Amphibians:

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. _____





Electing Class Symbols

Group Mission

Your assignment is to research a possible class amphibian. You will use portaportal.com, books, and nature magazines to review animals native to Alabama then choose one to investigate.

The Research

When you have decided on your animal – then get busy 😊 Please use three different sources for your investigation: the computer, a book and the third reference can be anything that makes you happy! Follow the planning sheet and complete a paragraph about your animal.

The Candidates (The Primaries)

When you have chosen your animal please share the information with your small group. After each member shares the information, it is time to choose an animal to campaign for to the whole class. May the best animal win!

The Cool Campaign

Each group will embark on a “cool campaign” for their animal. Some cool ideas for the campaign may consist of posters, power points, or a skit. Each animal must have its own slogan. For example: “Vote for the lungless salamander. He might not have lungs but he has a heart”. You must also write a speech to present in front of the whole class.

Wow! It's a Debate

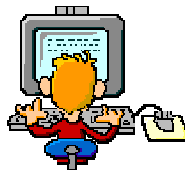
The campaign will culminate in a debate. Pick one team member to speak on behalf of each animal. The class will enjoy the debate.

Election Time:

Finally, your teacher will hand out the official ballot on which you will vote for your class symbols. Remember, just like the official state symbols of Alabama, you will select the best amphibian.

Your Job!

In order to be successful with this activity, you have a number of responsibilities. These responsibilities include those that you as an individual need to do and those that your team, as a whole, will need to complete.



Individual Responsibilities

- Select and research an animal.
- Use the planning sheet to write a paragraph detailing why this should be the nominee for a class symbol. Include at least five specific details!
- Present your animal candidate to others in your small group.
- Work with your team to develop “campaign” materials and debate talking points.
- Serve as an audience member or presenter during the debates.



Team Responsibilities

- Offer team members constructive comments on their research.
- With other members of your group, choose an animal to nominate to the class as your class symbols. Explain your choice in a short paragraph.
- Develop a campaign, including speeches and promotional material, for your animal to run against in the class election.



Names _____ Date _____

Classroom Symbols

As a group, review the list of animals native to Alabama. Select one animal for each group member to research. Complete this sheet. On the back, write a short descriptive paragraph about your animal and attach a drawing or picture of the animal.

Your name: _____

Name of animal: _____

Answer the following questions. Use these answers in your short report.

1. Name of animal _____
2. Any other names it might have _____
3. What it eats _____
4. Where it lives _____
5. What are its babies are called _____
6. On the map, draw or shade in the range where it is found.
7. Three other cool facts about the animal:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
8. Write down all important information about the sources you used:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Checklist:

- _____ I have finished all questions on this paper.
- _____ I have found a picture or created a drawing of my animal/plant.
- _____ I have marked my animal/plant's range on the map.
- _____ I have researched my animal/plant. - Name all three sources.
- _____ I have written a paragraph, including my details (from above) explaining why my animal should be chosen.
- _____ I have proofread my paragraph for clarity and neatness.

southern two-lined salamander, *Eurycea cirrigera*

long-tailed salamander, *Eurycea longicauda* ssp.

SUBSPECIES: **long-tailed salamander**, *Eurycea longicauda longicauda*

SUBSPECIES: **three-lined salamander**, *Eurycea longicauda guttolineata*

cave salamander, *Eurycea lucifuga*

dwarf salamander, *Eurycea quadridigitata*

Tennessee cave salamander, *Gyrinophilus palleucus* ssp. --**Protected**: ADCNR

spring salamander, *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus* ssp.

four-toed salamander, *Hemidactylium scutatum*

Red Hills salamander, *Phaeognathus hubrichti* --**Protected**: ADCNR and USFWS

eastern zigzag salamander, *Plethodon dorsalis dorsalis*

slimy salamanders, *Plethodon glutinosus*, *P. grobmani*, *P. mississippi* (three very similar species)

southern redback salamander, *Plethodon serratus*

Webster's salamander, *Plethodon websteri*

Gulf Coast mud salamander, *Pseudotriton montanus flavissimus*

red salamander, *Pseudotriton ruber* ssp.

SUBSPECIES: **northern red salamander**, *Pseudotriton ruber ruber*

SUBSPECIES: **southern red salamander**, *Pseudotriton ruber vioscai*

Mudpuppies and Waterdogs--Family PROTEIDAE (4)

Alabama waterdog, *Necturus alabamensis*

Gulf Coast waterdog, *Necturus beyeri*

mudpuppy, *Necturus maculosus*

Black Warrior waterdog, *Necturus* sp

Newts--Family SALAMANDRIDAE (1)

eastern newt, *Notophthalmus viridescens* ssp.

SUBSPECIES: **central newt**, *Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis*

SUBSPECIES: **red-spotted newt**, *Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens*

Spadefoot Toads--Family PELOBATIDAE (1)

eastern spadefoot toad, *Scaphiopus holbrookii holbrookii*

"True" Frogs--Family RANIDAE (8)

dusky gopher frog, *Rana capito sevosa* --**Protected**: ADCNR

bullfrog, *Rana catesbeiana*

bronze frog, *Rana clamitans* ssp.

SUBSPECIES: **bronze frog**, *Rana clamitans clamitans*

SUBSPECIES: **green frog**, *Rana clamitans melanota*

pig frog, *Rana grylio*

river frog, *Rana heckscheri*

pickerel frog, *Rana palustris*

southern leopard frog, *Rana utricularia*

wood frog, *Rana sylvatica*

Salamanders--Order CAUDATA (44)

Mole Salamanders--Family AMBYSTOMATIDAE (6)

flatwoods salamander, *Ambystoma cingulatum* --**Protected**: ADCNR

spotted salamander, *Ambystoma maculatum*

marbled salamander, *Ambystoma opacum*

mole salamander, *Ambystoma talpoideum*

smallmouth salamander, *Ambystoma texanum*

eastern tiger salamander, *Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum*

Amphiumas--Family AMPHIUMIDAE (3)

two-toed amphiuma, *Amphiuma means*

one-toed amphiuma, *Amphiuma pholeter*

three-toed amphiuma, *Amphiuma tridactylum*

Giant Salamanders--Family CRYPTOBRANCHIDAE (1)

eastern hellbender, *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis* --**Protected**: ADCNR

Woodland or Lungless Salamanders--Family PLETHODONTIDAE (26)

green salamander, *Aneides aeneus* --**Protected**: ADCNR

seepage salamander, *Desmognathus aeneus*

Apalachicola salamander, *Desmognathus apalachicola*

southern dusky salamander, *Desmognathus auriculatus*

dusky salamander, *Desmognathus fuscus*

seal salamander, *Desmognathus monticola* ssp. --**Protected**: ADCNR (Coastal Plain populations only)

mountain dusky salamander, *Desmognathus ochrophaeus*

brown-backed salamander, *Eurycea aquatica*

Who Lives in Alabama?

Below is a partial list of the different types of *amphibians* that can be found in Alabama. Use the list to select a species to research.

Amphibians of Alabama

Frogs and Toads--Order ANURA (30)

"True" Toads--Family BUFONIDAE (4)

American toad, *Bufo americanus americanus*
oak toad, *Bufo quercicus*
southern toad, *Bufo terrestris*
Fowler's toad, *Bufo woodhousii fowleri*

Treefrogs and Kin--Family HYLIDAE (15)

northern cricket frog, *Acris crepitans crepitans*
southern cricket frog, *Acris gryllus gryllus*
Pine Barrens treefrog, *Hyla andersonii* --*Protected*: ADCNR
bird-voiced treefrog, *Hyla avivoca*
Cope's gray treefrog, *Hyla chrysoscelis*
green treefrog, *Hyla cinerea*
pine woods treefrog, *Hyla femoralis*
barking treefrog, *Hyla gratiosa*
squirrel treefrog, *Hyla squirella*
mountain chorus frog, *Pseudacris brachyphona*
northern spring peeper, *Pseudacris crucifer crucifer*
southern chorus frog, *Pseudacris nigrita nigrita*
little grass frog, *Pseudacris ocularis*
ornate chorus frog, *Pseudacris ornata*
upland chorus frog, *Pseudacris triseriata feriarum*

Tropical Frogs--Family LEPTODACTYLIDAE (1)

greenhouse frog, *Eleutherodactylus planirostris planirostris* [exotic, established]

Narrowmouthed Toads--Family MICROHYLIDAE (1)

eastern narrowmouth toad, *Gastrophryne carolinensis*

Animal Classification

Animals are grouped or *classified* according to characteristics they have in common and separated on the basis of their differences.

Biologists are scientists who study and classify living things into 5 Kingdoms, (Monera, Protista, fungi, Plantae, and Anamalia)

The study of plants is called *botany*. *Botanists* are the scientists who study plants. The study of animals is called *zoology*. *Zoologists* are the scientists who study animals. They use a classification system that divides the Animal Kingdom into smaller groups called *Phyla*. The phylum is based on similarities. Each phylum is divided further into *Classes (groups)* which can continue to be divided into smaller sections until only one animal, the *species*, is left alone.

The Animal Kingdom can be divided into two different groups, Vertebrates and Invertebrates. *Vertebrates* are animals that have a backbone. *Invertebrates* don't have backbones. There are actually many more phyla than these two and even some smaller groups called subphyla.

A Fun and easy way to classify is to use a *classification tree*. It is a graphic organizer that shows the Kingdoms broken into smaller groups. The following could be used as a classification of animals for Alabama's State Symbols Project:

