

For Creative Minds

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Glossary

brood	a group of siblings born or hatched at the same time
calves	young dolphins
chicks	young birds
colony	a group of beavers, naked mole rats, or hoary marmots
community	a group of animals that live together in the same area
flock	a group of birds, including crows
infants	young humans, tamarins, and chimpanzees
joeys	young kangaroos
kits	young beavers
mammal	a class of animals with a backbone that has fur (hair); the young drink milk from their mothers
mob	a group of meerkats or kangaroos
offspring	a child or children born to parents
pack	a group of wolves or dogs
pups	young dogs, meerkats, wolves, naked mole rats, or hoary marmots
regurgitate	to bring up food from stomach back into the mouth
siblings	brothers and sisters
troop	a group of chimpanzees



Animal Families That Live In Groups

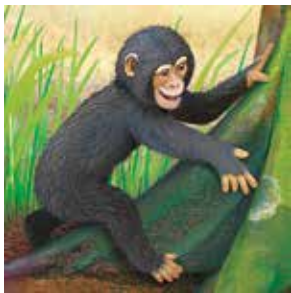
All of the young animals in this book live in groups. But the groups are very different. Some have only mothers and young. Others have fathers, mothers, brood siblings, and older siblings. Still others include aunts and uncles or unrelated adults.

In addition to living with siblings, which of these animals live with

1. mothers in nursery groups within a large community?
2. mothers and fathers?
3. mothers, fathers, and unrelated adults?
4. mothers of all ages, including grandmothers and daughters about to give birth?

Is your family like any of these animal families? What is your family like?

Beaver kits live with their mothers, fathers, brood siblings, and older siblings.



Chimpanzee infants live in a large troop of males and females of all ages. Mothers form nursery groups within the larger troop to care for the young, while other group members provide protection and search for food.

Dolphin calves spend time in a nursery group that includes expectant mothers and mothers of all ages, including grandmothers. The female dolphins come and go. Older siblings sometimes visit.



Meerkat pups live with their mothers, fathers, brood siblings, and older siblings. The whole mob helps raise the pups.

Tamarin infants live with their mothers, fathers, twin siblings, older siblings, and maybe even a few unrelated adults. The entire group helps raise the infants.



Answers: 1. chimpanzees; 2. beavers, meerkats; 3. tamarins; 4. dolphins

How Many Babies?

Use the chart to answer the questions. The information in the chart is based on averages and what is most common.

	How many babies are born (hatch) at a time?	How much time is normal between babies?
African wild dog	9 to 12 pups	1 year
beaver	3 to 4 kits	1 year
chimpanzee	1 or 2. They can have twins.	5 to 6 years
crow	4 to 6 chicks	1 year
dolphin	1 calf	3 to 6 years
hoary marmot	2 to 5 pups	2 years
kangaroo	1 joey	8 to 12 months
meerkat	3 or 4 pups	4 to 6 months
naked mole rat	12 (up to 27 possible) pups	70 to 80 days
tamarin	1 or 2 with twins most common	1 year
wolf	4 to 6 pups	1 year

1. Which animal has the most babies at the same time?
2. Which animals usually only have one baby at a time?
3. Which two animals might have a baby every six years?
4. Which animal might have pups when the older siblings are about two years old?
5. Which animal usually has two babies at a time (twins)?
6. Which animal mother has the least amount of time between babies?
7. Which animal mother gives birth every eight to twelve months?
8. Which animal gives birth to nine to twelve pups every year?
9. Which animal gives birth to one baby when the older sibling is three to six years old?



Answers: 1. naked mole rat; 2. chimpanzee, dolphin, kangaroo; 3. chimpanzee, dolphin; 4. hoary marmot; 5. tamarin; 6. naked mole rat; 7. kangaroo; 8. African wild dog; 9. dolphin

Fun Facts



Except for the crows (bird), all of the young animals in this book drink milk from their mothers when they are born. That means they are all mammals.

Parents and older siblings spit up food for crow babies to eat: eggs, insects, small vertebrates, plants, and decaying animals.

Wolf pups start eating regurgitated meat when they are about three weeks old. They start hunting when they are six months old.

Beaver kits can swim within twenty-four hours of being born. They will stay with their family until they are about two years old.

Tamarins start eating fruit as early as ten days old. By five weeks, they are eating fruit consistently.

Dolphins swim as soon as they are born. They start to eat fish when they are about three months old.

When kangaroo joeys are about six or seven months old, they lean from their mother's pouch to nibble grass.

A group of chimpanzees is called a community or a troop. It has many families and other groups. There can be up to one hundred fifty chimps in a troop.