



Animal Characteristics

Biology - Topic 32

About Animals

Animals are multi-cellular, eukaryotic organisms. Animals form the biological kingdom Animalia.

With very few exceptions, animals consume organic material, breathe oxygen, are able to move, reproduce sexually, and grow from a hollow sphere of cells. Note: the hollow sphere of cells is called "the blastula." The blastula grows during embryonic development.

Over 1.5 million living animal species have been described—of which around 1 million are insects. Some estimates suggest Earth has seven (7) million animal species in total.

Animals range in length from 8.5 millionths of a meter to almost 34 meters (110 ft). Animals have complex interactions with each other and their environments. Animals form complicated "food webs."



The study of animals is called zoology.