



Animals That Aren't What You Think

Some animals look like they belong to one group, but they don't! It's easy to get confused because of their names or how they (1)..... Let's look at some animals that are often misunderstood.

The **koala** is often called a "*koala bear*," but it is not a bear at all. Koalas are marsupials, like kangaroos. Marsupials carry their (2)..... in a pouch. Koalas live in trees and eat eucalyptus (3)..... Unlike bears, they are not related to any animal in the bear family.

The **salamander** looks like a lizard, but it isn't a reptile. Salamanders are amphibians, like frogs. They have soft, moist (4)....., not scales like reptiles. Salamanders also lay their eggs in water, and their babies start life as tadpoles.

The **porpoise** is often confused with dolphins, but they are not the same. Both are marine mammals, but porpoises are (5)..... and have rounded fins and teeth. Dolphins have pointed fins and cone-shaped teeth. Porpoises and dolphins are related, but they belong to different families.

The **jellyfish** is not a fish! It doesn't even have bones, a brain, or a heart. Jellyfish belong to a group of animals called cnidarians, which also includes corals. They live in the (6)..... and move by pulsing their bell-shaped (7).....

The **pangolin** is sometimes called a "*scaly anteater*," but it is not related to anteaters or armadillos. Pangolins are their own unique group. They are mammals covered in hard scales made of keratin, the (8)..... material as our nails. They use their long (9)..... to eat ants and termites.

The **flying fox** sounds like it could be a fox, but it's actually a bat! Flying foxes are some of the (10)..... bats in the world. They don't eat insects like most bats but prefer fruit, which is why they are also called fruit bats.

The animal world is full of surprises! Sometimes, names and looks can trick us. Which of these animals surprised you the most?

Word Bank

tongues, ocean, leaves, flowers, look, bodies, skin, largest, smaller, babies, same