

ANIMAL FAMILY

1 Complete the table with the nouns to describe group, male, female and young animals.

Tigress

Cygnets	Kittens	Bunnies	Billy	Tom	Kid
Bulls	Cubs	Sows	Lamb	Cow	Herd
Leopards	Swarm/hive	Piglets	Tadpoles	Stallion	Peahen
Calf/heifer	Pride	Calf	Ewe	Mare	Pen
Gander	Buck	Peachick	Pack	Vix	Drone
Gosling	Gaggle	Flock	Bitch	Vixen	Shoal/school

ANIMAL	GROUP	MALE	FEMALE	YOUNG
Cow/ Elephant /Buffalo			cow	
Goose				
Cat	clowder		dam/queen	
Lion		lion	lioness	
Rabbit	nest		doe	
Pig	litter/herd	boar		
Sheep		ram		
Wolf		dog		cub
Tiger		tiger		cub
Whale	gam	bull		
Horse	herd			colt/foal
Frog	army			
Bee			queen	
Fox	earth/skulk			cub
Goat	herd		nanny	
Leopard	leap	leopard		cub
Peacock	muster	peacock		
Swan	herd			
Fish				

2 Read the sentences and try to guess the meaning of the idioms

- Wow! It's raining cats and dogs today! I wish I'd brought my umbrella to school!
 - I forgot my umbrella today.
 - It's raining heavily.
 - Cats and dogs are falling from the sky.
- When I told my mom I would be home around 2 am, she had a cow!
 - My mom bought a baby cow.
 - My mom is really strange.
 - My mom was really upset.
- Jean: How did you know it was my birthday today?
Susan: Oh, a little birdie told me!
 - Jean told Susan it was her birthday.
 - An unnamed person told Susan about Jean's birthday.
 - Susan told Jean it was her birthday.
- Frank: Why didn't your brother ride the roller coaster with us?
Sam: Oh, he's such a scaredy cat! He won't get on any fast ride.
 - Sam's brother is afraid to ride the roller coaster.
 - Sam's brother is a cat.
 - Sam's brother didn't go to the roller coaster.
- When the telephone salesman told me I could buy some concert tickets for only \$10.00 if I gave him my credit card number, it seemed a little fishy to me, so I hung up the phone.
 - I thought the telephone salesman smelled like a fish and I didn't like that.
 - I thought the phone salesman was a dangerous fish and he scared me.
 - I thought the phone salesman was dishonest and I felt suspicious of him.
- I never learned how to use a computer, so I lost my job to a new employee. It's a dog-eat-dog world.
 - Only the strong or the best survive.
 - Dogs are eating dogs at the office.
 - Dogs like to eat dogs for lunch.

3 Choose the adjective from the column on the right to complete the idiom.

As	as a bat.	Blind
As	as a bee.	Quiet
As	as a bell.	Clear
As	as a daisy.	Stubborn
As	as an eel.	Slippery
As	as a feather.	Light
As	as a fox.	Busy
As	as the hills.	Fresh
As	as a mouse.	Cunning
As	as a mule.	Old

4 Match the animal idioms with their meanings.

To ape someone

To go ape (US)

To beaver away

To be batty

To clam up

To continue doggedly

To be crabby

To crow about something

To fox someone

To hare off

To hog

To lionise

To monkey around/about

Monkey business

To parrot

To rabbit on

To get ratty

To swan about

To wolf down

Behave playfully, not act seriously

Be silly, foolish, eccentric or senile

Continue with determination despite difficulties

Move in a leisurely way without special purpose

Work hard for a long time

Be gad-tempered or irritable

Copy, imitate

Talk about something arrogantly

Go silent suddenly, refuse to speak

Confuse someone

Monopolise, not allow others to use

Glorify, idolise, acclaim

Dishonest behaviour

Eat a lot very quickly

Repeat exactly but without understanding

Talk too much

Run fast in an uncontrolled way

Become very angry

Become irritable

