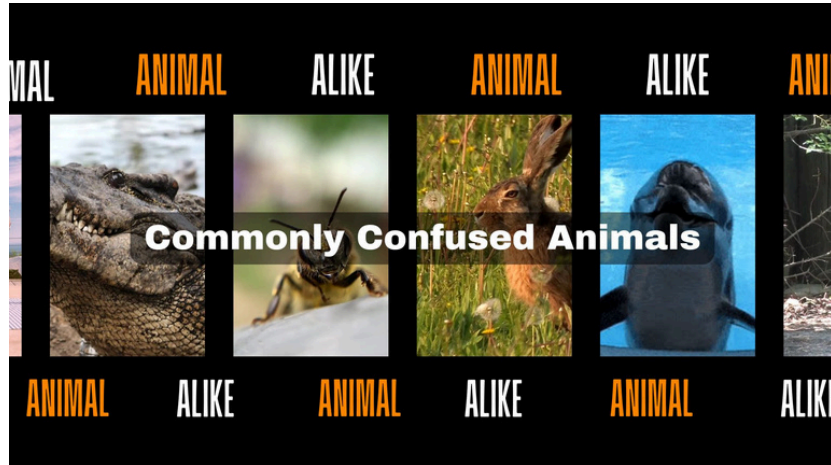


# COMMONLY CONFUSED ANIMALS

Research & Compare



## A VIDEO LESSON

Full video and reading transcript.  
Compare and Contrast template.  
Students research two similar animals  
using the organizer.  
Full PPTx for class use to discuss,  
compare animals.



# ***COMMONLY CONFUSED ANIMALS***

## Alike but Different

There are many animals that are very alike, close cousins but too, that are different in fundamental ways. We often get them confused. Let's look at some of these commonly mixed-up animals and what the differences between them really are.

### ***Crocodile vs. Alligator***

Look closely, you'll notice crocodiles have V-shaped, pointed snouts, while alligators have wider, U-shaped snouts. Crocodiles are typically a lighter olive brown, while alligators are darker, almost black. Crocodiles prefer saltwater habitats, while alligators are found in freshwater.

### ***Porpoise vs. Dolphin***

Porpoises have shorter, spade-shaped teeth and a rounder face, while dolphins have cone-shaped teeth and a more pronounced beak. Dolphins are larger and more playful, while porpoises are smaller and more reserved. Dolphins prefer tropical waters, while porpoises live in colder seas.

### ***Rabbit vs. Hare***

Rabbits are smaller with shorter ears and are found in grassy areas or meadows, while hares are larger with long ears and are often seen in open fields. Hares are faster and born with fur and open eyes, while rabbits are born hairless and blind.

### ***Butterfly vs. Moth***

Butterflies are active during the day and rest with their wings closed, showing their bright colors. Moths are nocturnal, rest with their wings open, and often have duller colors. Butterflies have thin, clubbed antennae, while moths have feathery or straight ones.

### ***Llama vs. Alpaca***

Llamas are taller and have longer faces, while alpacas are shorter with a fluffier coat. Llamas are often used as pack animals, while alpacas are bred for their wool. You'll see llamas in a wider range of terrains, while alpacas prefer the high Andes.

### ***Seal vs. Sea Lion***

Sea lions have external ear flaps and walk on land using their flippers, while seals lack visible ears and wriggle on their bellies. Sea lions are more vocal and social, while seals tend to be quieter and more solitary. Sea lions are often found in warmer waters.

### ***Wasp vs. Bee***

Wasps have slim, shiny bodies and narrow waists, while bees are more rounded, muscular and hairy. Wasps are more aggressive and build paper-like nests, while bees are crucial pollinators, creating waxy honeycombs. Bees are usually found near flowers, while wasps may hover near food.

### ***Aardvark vs. Anteater***

Aardvarks have pig-like snouts and live in Africa, digging for termites with powerful claws. Anteaters, found in Central and South America, have long, slender snouts and use their long tongues to scoop up ants. Anteaters have a bushy tail, while aardvarks have a smoother, stubbier one.

### ***Opossum vs. Possum***

Opossums live in the Americas and have a bare, rat-like tail. Possums, native to Australia, have a bushier tail and are generally cuter with a rounded face. Opossums are scavengers, while possums are often arboreal, living in trees.

### ***Frog vs. Toad***

Frogs have smooth, moist skin and long legs for leaping, often found near water. Toads have dry, bumpy skin and shorter legs, preferring to walk rather than leap, and are often found on land.

### ***Penguin vs. Puffin***

Penguins are flightless, with black-and-white coloring, and are found in the Southern Hemisphere. Puffins are smaller, colorful seabirds with the ability to fly, typically found in the Northern Hemisphere. Penguins are great swimmers, while puffins dive and fly.

### ***Turtle vs. Tortoise***

Turtles have streamlined bodies and spend most of their lives in water, with webbed feet for swimming. Tortoises live on land and have rounder, domed shells and sturdy, elephant-like legs.

### ***Chimpanzee vs. Monkey***

Chimpanzees are apes, with no tail and a more upright, human-like posture. Monkeys have tails and are often smaller, more agile tree-dwellers. Chimpanzees are more social and form complex communities, while monkeys often live in smaller, family-based groups.



# COMPARE

TWO  
ANIMALS

concept 1		concept 2	
differences	similarities	differences	

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