



Vocabulary

Grade 3 Unit 2: Scales, Feathers, and Fur: Animal Classification



Alphabetizing

Introduction: Alphabetizing



To **alphabetize** words, put them in order based on the alphabet. When we alphabetize something, we say it is in *alphabetical order*.

Let's alphabetize these words using the first letter:

nectar and **predator**

N comes before **p** in the alphabet, so **nectar** comes before **predator** when we put these words in alphabetical order.

nectar

predator

When we alphabetize words that start with the same first letter, we alphabetize them using the second letter:

aquatic and adapt

The second letter of **aquatic** is **q**.

The second letter of **adapt** is **d**.

Let's look at the alphabet to see which letter appears first.

A B C **D** E F G H I J K L M N O P **Q** R S T U V W X Y Z

D comes before **Q** in the alphabet, so **adapt** comes before **aquatic** when we alphabetize these words to the second letter:

adapt

aquatic

Let's Try It Together!



Look at these words from our domain on animal classification:

herbivore

habitat

To alphabetize them, remember to look at the second letter in the word. Turn to a partner and whisper the word that comes first when we alphabetize.

Hold up one finger if you think **habitat** is the first word.

Hold up five fingers if you think **herbivore** is the first word.

Since **a** appears before **e** in the alphabet, we would put the word **habitat** before the word **herbivore**.

habitat

herbivore

Now they're in alphabetical order!

Now you try one with a partner. Which word would come first alphabetically?

huddle

habitat

Raise one finger if you think **huddle** comes first alphabetically.

Raise five fingers if you think **habitat** comes first alphabetically.

Did you remember the steps?

1. Find the second letter of each word.

huddle

habitat

2. Decide which letter appears first on the alphabet chart.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T **U** V W X Y Z

3. Put the words in alphabetical order.

habitat

huddle

Now try one by yourself!



Which word comes first alphabetically?

primate

plumage

Write the words in alphabetical order.

Let's try with three words. Put these words in alphabetical order:

characteristic

classify

carnivore

Write the words in alphabetical order.

Answers



plumage

primate

carnivore
characteristic
classify