

Identifying Wildlife in Florida

3rd Grade Standards targeted:

BIG IDEA :	Diversity and Evolution of Organisms
SC.3.L.15.1	Classify animals into major groups (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, arthropods, vertebrates and invertebrates, those having live births and those which lay eggs) according to their physical characteristics and behaviors. We will discuss how to identify mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians in Florida.
A	Earth is home to a great diversity of living things, but changes in the environment can affect their survival.
B	Individuals of the same kind often differ in their characteristics and sometimes the differences give individuals an advantage in surviving and reproducing.

Set Up: (2 days: 1 hour each) Students will review the [slideshow](#) presented. Following the slideshow, students will think about an animal they have seen in Florida. The students will draw their animal and determine if it is a mammal, bird, reptile, or amphibian. They will also describe the area they saw the animal. Each student will take turns sharing with the class or the teacher can share them for the student.

Review --

- 1. What are some ways you can tell if mammals are in the area without seeing the animals?**
Tracks, scat, or markings left behind
- 2. What are the two common marine mammals we have in Florida?**
Manatees and bottlenose dolphins
- 3. What is a way to identify small birds if they won't stay still long enough to see them?**
Listen for their songs
- 4. What are the three types of testudines we have in Florida?**
*Gopher tortoises
Freshwater turtles
Sea turtles*
- 5. What are two common type of lizards in Florida?**
Skinks and anoles
- 6. Where would you find amphibians?**
Near water or damp places, like caves