

What makes a bird a bird?

What comes to mind when you hear the word “bird?” Discuss bird characteristics with your class or partner and write them in the chart below.

| Bird characteristics | Animals that share these characteristics |
|----------------------|--|
| Backbone | Goldfish, snake, frog, and bear |
| Warm-blooded | Coyote, whale, horse |
| Beak | Platypus, turtle |
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Are all of these characteristics unique to birds? Discuss in class or use research materials such as the internet or the library to determine if these characteristics are found in any other organisms. Name two or three animals that share each of the characteristics.

Which characteristic is unique to birds?

Look at the feather below and label its parts. Use the words in the word box.



Word box

- vane
- shaft
- barb
- quill