

Animal Classification Discussion Questions:

- 1) How many groups of different animals are there?
- 2) How are animals classified?
- 3) What physical features are shared by each group?
- 4) How many different species exist within the groups?



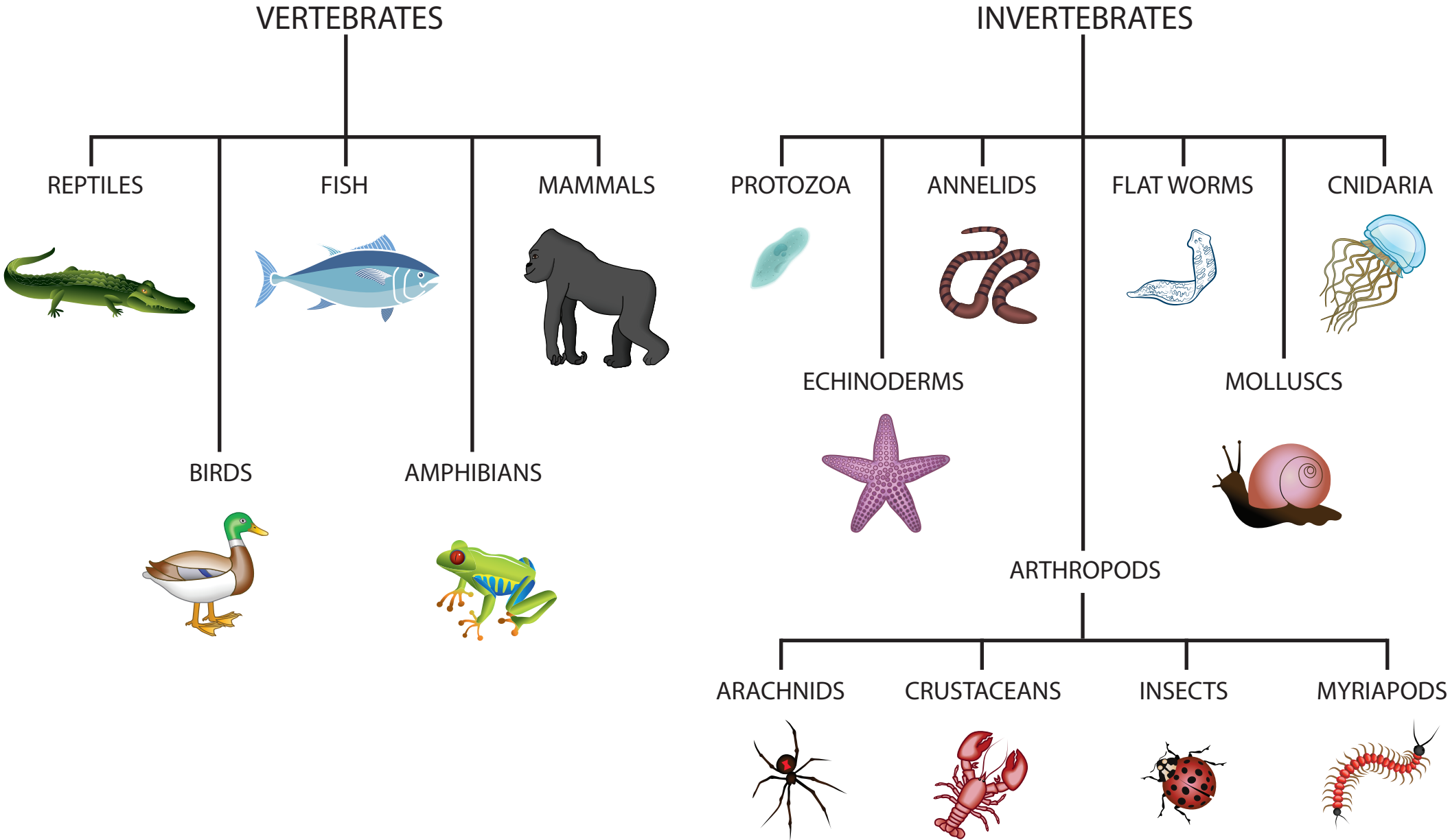
Animals can be grouped into two distinct groups:

Those that have a backbone inside their bodies are called **vertebrates**. Examples of vertebrates include fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals.

Those that do not have a backbone inside their bodies are called **invertebrates**.

Examples of invertebrates include insects, spiders, crustaceans and jellyfish.

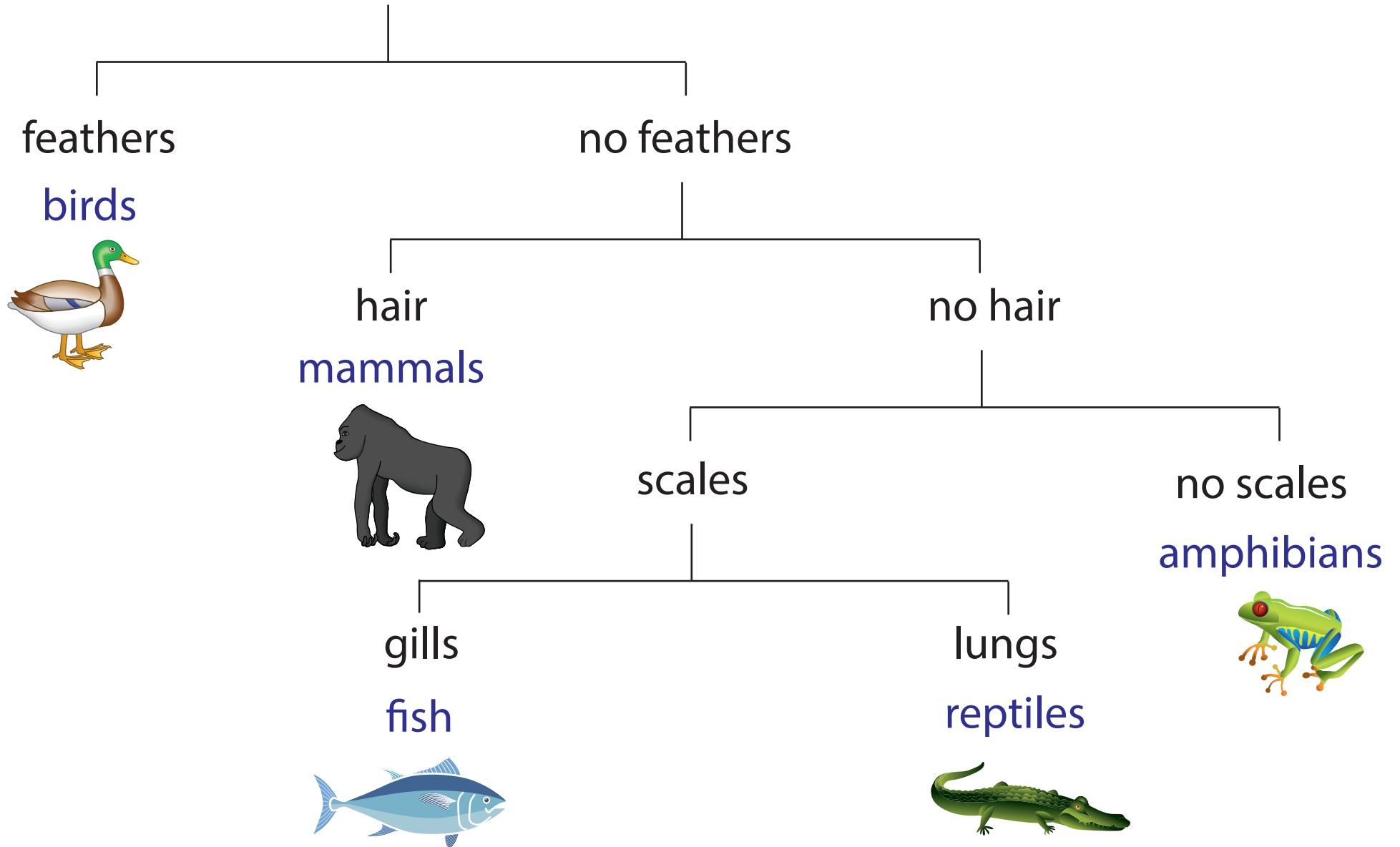
CLASSIFICATION OF ANIMALS



Not all sub groups of Invertebrates shown in this chart.

Animals are classified according to their physical features. Animals that have similar features are grouped together in classes.

VERTEBRATES



CLASSIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Animals are grouped together according to their physical features. Each group consists of smaller groups of animals that share similar features. There may be many different species of a type of animal. Scientific names are used to avoid confusion. These names are often latin.



For example

A red squirrel falls into the following groups:

Kingdom: Animalia (The animal kingdom)

Phylum: Chordata (The vertebrates)

Class: Mammalia (The mammals)

Order: Rodentia (Animals that gnaw with one set of incisors)

Family: Sciuridae (Squirrels, marmots and chipmunk family)

Genus: Sciurus (Tree Squirrels)

Species: Sciurus vulgaris (Eurasian Red Squirrel)

There are thirteen sub-species of tree squirrel.

How many different species of animals are there in the world?

In 2009 there were 64 788 accepted species of vertebrates and 1 359 365 species of invertebrates living in the world.

Scientists have estimated that there might be about 80 500 vertebrates and 6, 755, 830 invertebrates living in the world.

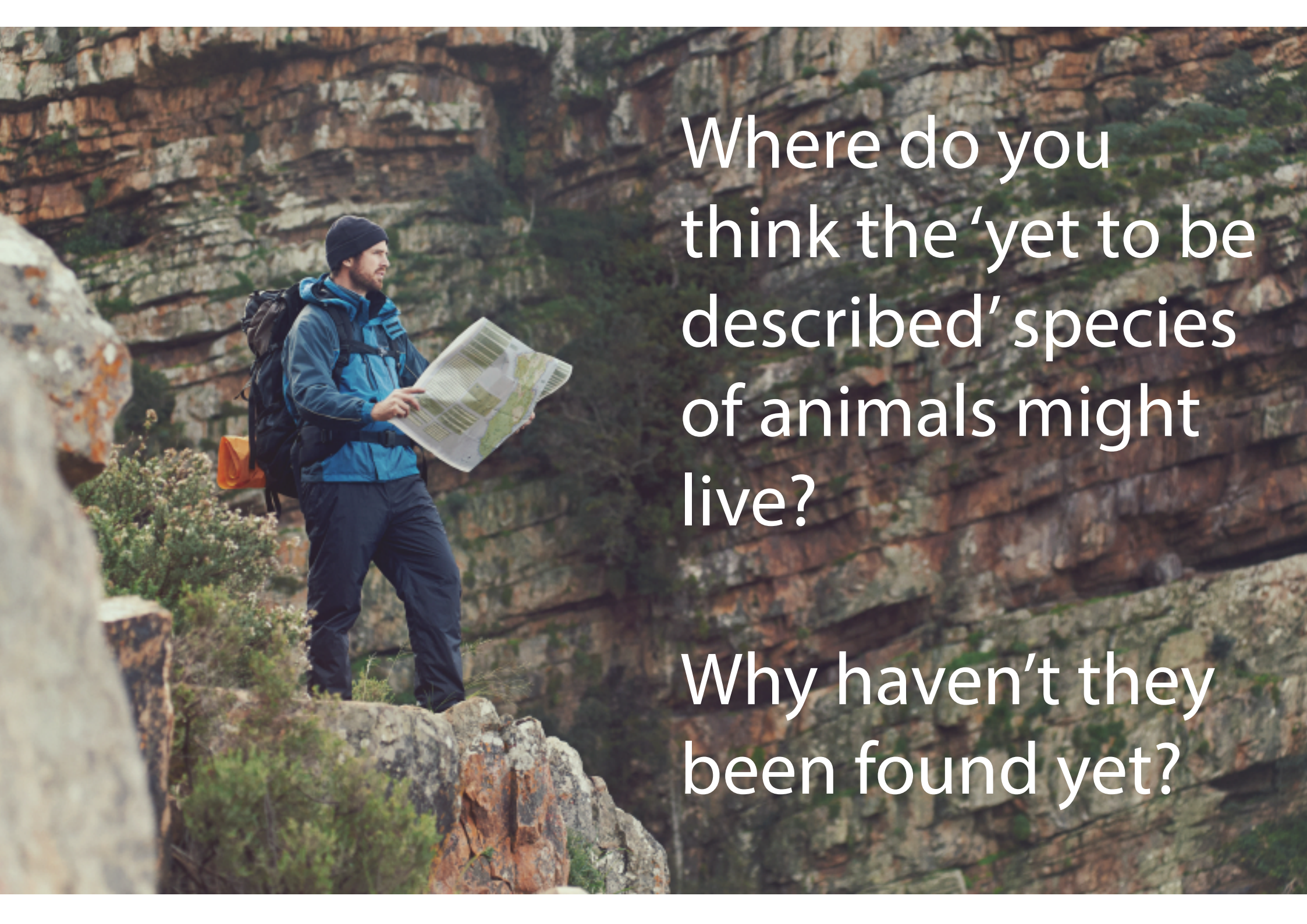
Currently, a total of 5 966 vertebrates and 2 524 invertebrates are threatened species.

Number of Species (Vertebrates)

Class of Animal	Accepted Number of Found Species	Estimated Number of Species in World	Number of Threatened Species
Mammals	5 487	5 500	1 141
Birds	9 990	> than 10 000	1 222
Reptiles	8 734	≈ 10 000	423
Amphibians	6 515	≈ 15 000	1 905
Fish	31 269	≈ 40 000	1 275

Number of Species (Invertebrates)

Class of Animal	Accepted Number of Found Species	Estimated Number of Species in World	Number of Threatened Species
Echinoderms	7 003	≈ 14 000	≈2 000
Insects	≈ 1 000 000	≈ 5 000 000	626
Arachnids	102 248	≈ 600 000	18
Myriapods	16 072	≈ 90 000	15
Crustaceans	47 000	≈ 150 000	606
Molluscs	≈ 80 000	≈ 200 000	978
Annelids	16 763	≈30 000	-
Cnidaria	9 795	unknown	236



Where do you think the 'yet to be described' species of animals might live?

Why haven't they been found yet?