

Spread out on the desk is a bunch of toy animals. You'll be using these animals to get acquainted with some important concepts in ecology.

1. How many different kinds of animals are there on the desk?
2. List their names (if you know them) and the number of each.

Name	How many?

3. Do you know any ways that these animals interact? Does some eat other ones? Do some eat the same thing?

If you know what a food web is, draw a food web of these 5 types of animals.

4. Is there another word we use to denote a “type” of animal?

5. What does the word **species** mean?

6. What makes two animals different species?

Take home facts:

In ecology the number of types of animals in an area is known as **species richness**.

Two animals are in the same species if they can have **fertile** young.

The number of a single type of animal is called **abundance**.

The **diversity** of a place is a combination of species richness and the abundances of each species.

Discussion:

The teacher will rearrange some of your animals into two big groups. In your opinion, which group has a higher diversity?