**Active Learning Exercise 6.1**

to accompany

*Vertebrate Life*, Tenth Edition

Pough • Janis

**Vertebrate “Class” Descriptions**

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**Level of Difficulty:** Easy

**Relevant Terminology:** this will vary depending on which class of vertebrates you’re working on

**Activity**

Your job is to find a vertebrate in each of the following classes and make a single PowerPoint slide describing it.

* Fish
* Amphibians
* Non-avian reptiles
* Birds
* Mammals

The slide needs to include the following:

* Picture of the organism
* Common and scientific name, with major taxonomic group (Squalomorphii, for example, if it’s that kind of shark)
* Habitat and range
* Diet
* Reproductive strategy
* Conservation status/concerns
* An interesting fact or two

That’s a lot to fit on a slide, so you will be expected to elaborate on your information in class. In other words, it doesn’t all have to fit on the slide, as long as you talk about it. Your instructor will put together a set of these slides and roll through them in class, having you each talk about your vertebrate.

Slides should be unique and varied (not all sharks, say) so it will be “first come, first serve.” The due date is a few days before the presentation date. (Smart students should send in the name of their vertebrate ahead of time to “reserve” it.) The names will be due about a week prior to the due date of the assignment. (See below.)

Your instructor reserves the right to veto your choice in the interest of variety, so you might want to look for less familiar critters.

You may do this assignment alone or with one partner.

Each of these slides is worth 20 “assignment” points, for a total of 100 points over the whole class. If you are absent the day of the slide presentation, you will get half the points you earned for the slide itself. Instructors should confirm the presentation dates as they get closer to them.

**Instructor Note**

Use a two-week cycle for each animal class. Try to allow a week between when the animal name is due and the slide is due, and then an additional week until the slide presentation, to allow time to get them organized.