

FOCUS

Wild Arizona

Key Words:

Social: living together in organized groups or communities

Solitary: spending the majority of life alone

Some animals are SOCIAL and live in groups, while others are SOLITARY, spending most of their life alone. But why? What are the advantages and disadvantages of living alone or in groups? Let's compare.

Below is a small list of potential advantages. Read each item and determine if it would be a benefit of living alone or in a group.

Advantages:

- Provides more eyes to look for predators
- Allows animals to learn from each other
- Reduces the chance of spreading disease
- Makes it easier to hide from predators

Let's try to organize this information. Below is a table. The left column represents the advantages of living in groups. The right column represents the advantages of living alone. Write each of the items from the list in the correct column in the table.

Why Animals Live in Groups	Why Animals Live Alone

The list above is not complete. *Can you think of other advantages?* Try to think about what is important to survival (such as food, water and shelter) and how living alone or in groups may help. Write your answers in the correct column.



By Eric Proctor

Just for Fun:

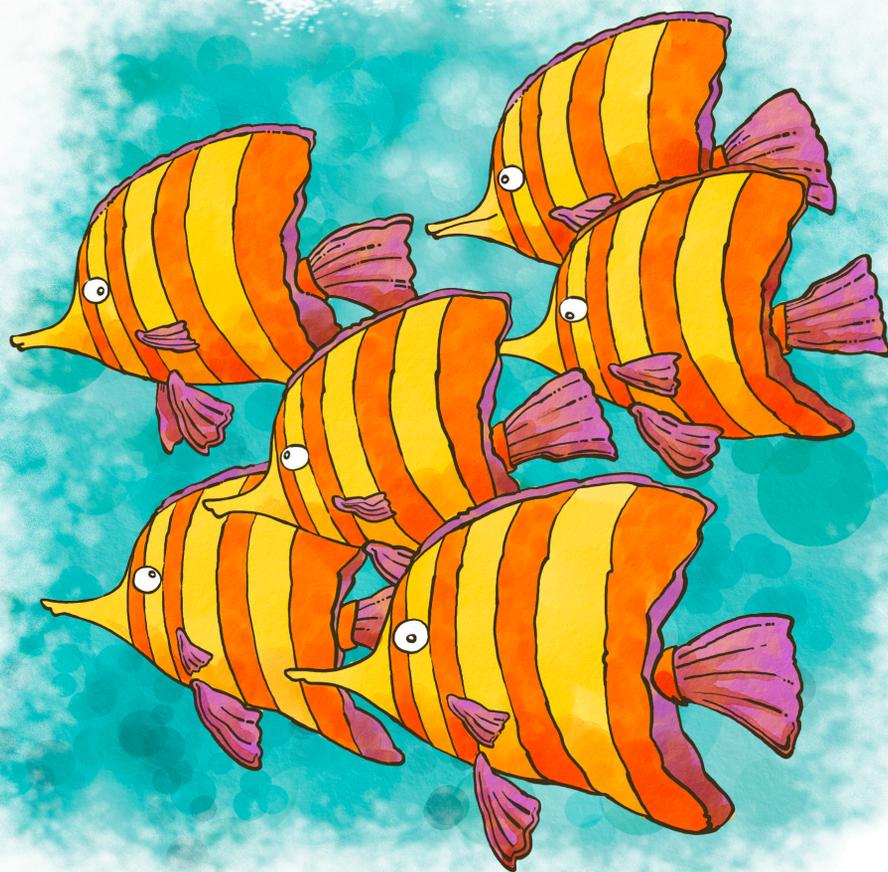


ILLUSTRATION BY TRACY HILL

As you know, many animals live in groups. But, the names of these groups are often very different. You probably already are familiar with some of these group names. For example, we call a group of deer a “herd.”

Can you guess the names of these other common groups?

- A group of wolves is called a _____
- A group of fish is called a _____
- A group of bees is called a _____

For other animals, however, the group names are not as well known. But, they can be very interesting. Below are two lists. On the left is a list of Arizona animals. On the right is a list of the names of the groups. Match the group name with the animal. Answers are provided at the end.

Animal	Group
1. Butterflies	a. Business
2. Crows	b. Cloud
3. Ferrets	c. Flutter
4. Geese	d. Gaggle
5. Grasshoppers	e. Murder
6. Owls	f. Parliament
7. Rattlesnakes	g. Rhumba

With your teacher’s or parent’s permission, use the Internet to find unusual names of other animal groups. 🦋

■ This feature is part of the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Focus Wild Arizona program, a free educational program for teachers, parents, students or anyone interested in learning about wildlife and habitat. Visit our Web site, www.azgfd.gov/focuswild, to find exciting lessons and resources.

Answers: Wolves=pack, fish=school, bees=swarm; 1c, 2e, 3a, 4d, 5b, 6f, 7g