

## Critter Crowds



Have you ever seen a bale of turtles? How about a smack of jellyfish? People have given colorful names to groups of animals, but why do animals gather in groups?

As with most animal behavior, grouping has its beginnings in survival. Animals will group together to avoid predators. Together, a group may be able to see approaching predators better since more eyes will be on the lookout. For instance, if danger is noticed by a deer in a herd, it will raise its white tail as a warning as it runs away. A swarming school of fish makes a confusing target for larger fish and a twisting and turning flock of small birds makes an equally confusing target for a falcon.

Animals may form groups for other survival advantages. For example, the V-shaped flight of geese and other birds actually reduces air drag, thereby reducing energy consumption. The red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species in Virginia, forms social groups called clans. Only one pair in the clan will nest while the other members help with the feeding and caring of the young.

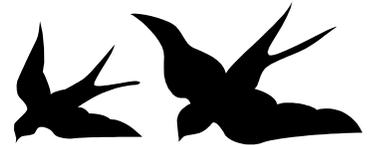
**Try and match the animal with the name of its group.**

**A Group of**

- A. Geese
- B. Fish
- C. Deer
- D. Quail
- E. Whales
- F. Ducks (on the water)
- G. Wolves
- H. Hogs
- I. Sheep
- J. Ants

**is called a**

- 1. Herd
- 2. Pack
- 3. Flock
- 4. Gaggle
- 5. School
- 6. Pod
- 7. Raft
- 8. Covey
- 9. Colony
- 10. Drift



**Too easy? Try these....**

- K. Rhinoceroses
- L. Locust
- M. Foxes
- N. Crows
- O. Bass
- P. Caterpillars
- Q. Owls
- R. Snipe
- S. Hawks
- T. Toads

- 11. Skulk
- 12. Shoal
- 13. Parliament
- 14. Murder
- 15. Cast
- 16. Crash
- 17. Wisp
- 18. Knot
- 19. Plague
- 20. Army

Answers: 1C; 2G; 3I; 4A; 5B; 6E; 7F; 8D; 9J;  
10H; 11M; 12O; 13Q; 14N; 15S; 16K; 17R;  
18T; 19L; 20P