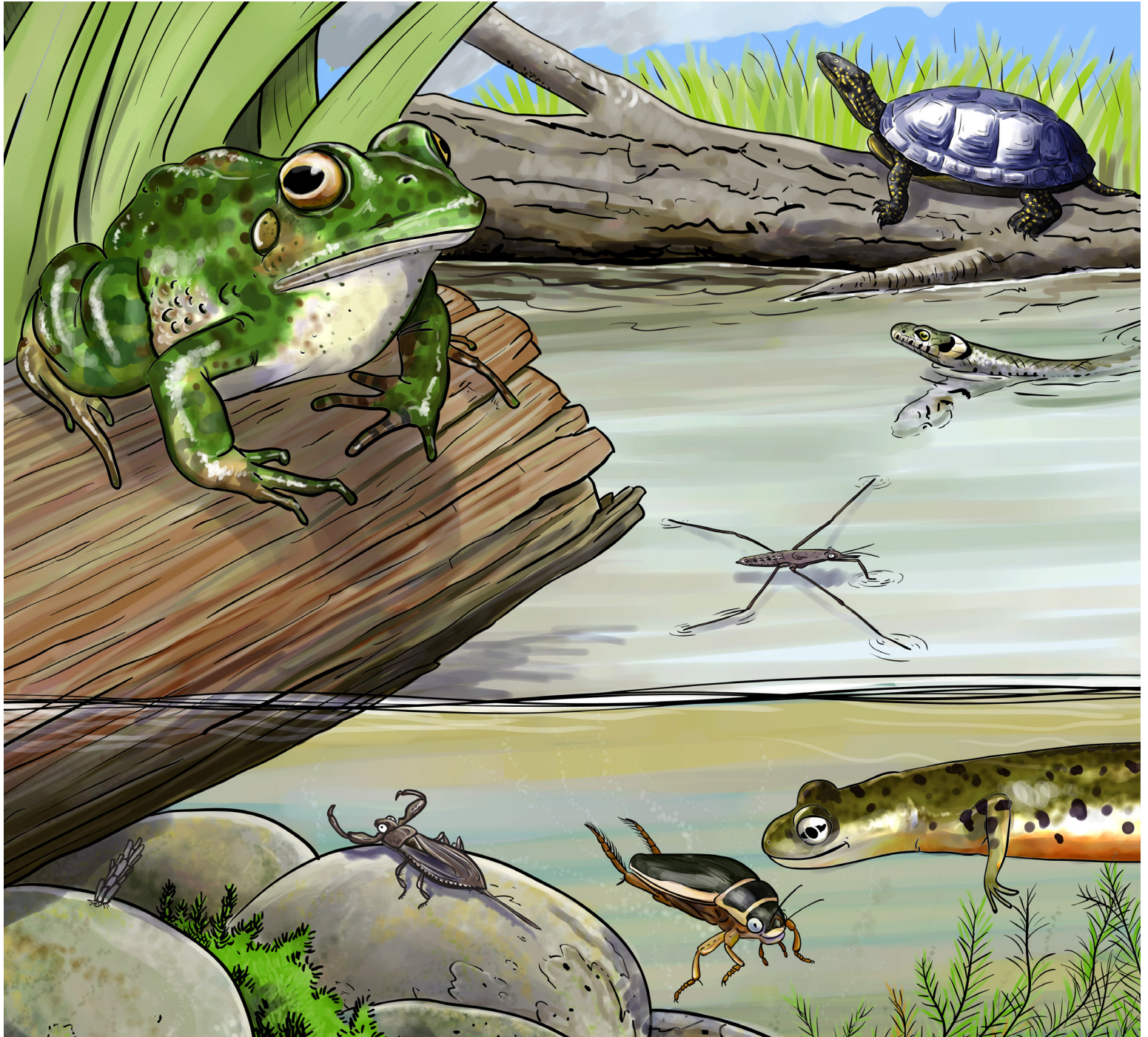




DALLAS ARBORETUM  
Education

*Garden STEM at Home*  
*Picture This!*



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.

## PICTURE THIS!



### OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL PRACTICE THEIR CLASSIFICATION SKILLS USING PHOTOS OF NATIVE TEXAS WILDLIFE, INCLUDING PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

### SOURCE

Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide

### BACKGROUND

A key skill for young scientists is the ability to classify information. This activity asks students to classify native Texas wildlife based upon measurable criteria, such as number of legs, skin covering (fur, feathers, scales), size or how they move.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Activate kids' classification skills by starting with items readily available around you: school supplies, household tools or even the fruits and vegetables in your refrigerator. Ask them to sort and classify. Then, have them explain their process and groups.
2. Use the Texas Parks and Wildlife Resources below to provide kids with a collection of native plants and animals. You could print to create a physical group or use the resources electronically to create a digital activity.
3. Brainstorm ways that the plants and animals could be sorted, such as those listed in the background above, or additional methods including ecoregion, type of animal/plant, etc.
4. Ask kids to choose one method to classify. Once completed, each child should share out their chosen categories and how they sorted.
5. Optional: (1) Re-sort using different classifications. (2) Create a *zoo* or *museum* exhibit of your groupings, with exhibit names and descriptions.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Download the Picture This Texas Connections Resource Guide from PLT:

[http://www.plttexas.org/uploadedFiles/Websites/PLT\\_Texas/Content/Texas\\_Connection/Activity%206%20and%209%20Picture%20This%20and%20Planet%20Diversity.pdf](http://www.plttexas.org/uploadedFiles/Websites/PLT_Texas/Content/Texas_Connection/Activity%206%20and%209%20Picture%20This%20and%20Planet%20Diversity.pdf)

Explore the Picture This Additional Resources Guide from PLT:

<https://www.plt.org/activity-resources/prek-8-activity-6-picture-this/>

Download the Texas Wildlife Identification Guide:

[https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd\\_bk\\_k0700\\_0517.pdf](https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_k0700_0517.pdf)

Texas Almanac Wildlife:

<https://texasalmanac.com/topics/environment/wildlife>

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Fact Sheets:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/>

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Plant Guidance by Ecoregion:

[https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife\\_diversity/wildscapes/ecoregions/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/ecoregions/)