

# LESSON 7 PLANTS AND ANIMALS

7

ENGIVE

For thousands of years, people have studied plants and animals. Early Egyptians wrote descriptions of plants. Greek and Roman doctors grew plants and used them to cure diseases. So far as we know, the philosopher Aristotle made the first scientific observations of animals. Today, scientists continue to study plants and animals, both in the wild and in controlled environments. In this lesson you will learn words that they use to discuss plants and animals.

## WORD LIST

arboretum  
aviary  
botany  
chameleon  
cultivate  
habitat  
nurture  
talon  
terrarium  
zoology

## DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each word, write the vocabulary word on the line to the right.

1. **arboretum** (är' bə-rē'təm) *noun* A park where trees and shrubs are displayed and studied. (From the Latin word *arbor*, meaning "tree")

**Example** ★ An *arboretum* often contains a section for rare plants.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. **aviary** (ā'vĕ-ēr'ē) *noun* A structure for keeping birds in captivity, usually in a zoo or a wildlife park. (From the Latin word *avis*, meaning "bird")

**Example** We walked through the *aviary* that had the mynas and parrots.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. **botany** (bōt'n-ē) *noun* The scientific study of plants. (From the Greek word *botanē*, meaning "plant")

**Related Words** *botanical* *adjective*; *botanist* *noun*

**Example** By studying *botany*, one can learn more about the sources of many foods.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. **chameleon** (kə-mēl'yən) *noun* A small lizard that changes the color of its skin. (From the Greek words *khamai*, meaning "on the ground," and *leōn*, meaning "lion")

**Example** Usually the *chameleon* changes color to blend in with its surroundings.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. **cultivate** (kŭl'tə-vāt') *verb* a. To prepare land for growing crops; to raise or tend plants or crops. b. To promote the growth of friendships or interests. (From the Latin word *cultus*, meaning "having been tilled")

**Related Word** **cultivation** *noun*

**Example** You *cultivate* land by plowing and fertilizing it.

6. **habitat** (hăb'ĭ-tăt') *noun* The environment in which a plant or animal normally lives. (From the Latin word *habitare*, meaning "to dwell")

**Related Word** **habitation** *noun*

**Example** The *habitat* of a gorilla is forested land in Africa.

7. **nurture** (nŭr'chər) *verb* To nourish or feed; to help to grow or develop. (From the Latin word *nutrire*, meaning "to feed")

**Example** The kangaroo *nurtures* her young while carrying them about in her pouch.

8. **talon** (tăl'en) *noun* The claw of a hawk, falcon, eagle, or other bird of prey. (From the Latin word *talus*, meaning "ankle")

**Example** Trainers of falcons must protect their arms from the birds' *talons* by wearing heavy leather gloves.

9. **terrarium** (tə-râr'ē-əm) *noun* A transparent container in which small plants or animals are kept. (From the Latin word *terra*, meaning "earth")

**Example** The bottom of a *terrarium* is usually covered with soil, stones, twigs, and leaves.

10. **zoology** (zō-ŏl'ə-jē) *noun* The scientific study of animals. (From the Greek word *zōion*, meaning "living being")

**Related Words** **zoological** *adjective*; **zoologist** *noun*

**Example** If you study *zoology*, you might learn about the many ways animals survive in winter.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORY CUE: A zoo has animals in it, and zoology is the study of animals.

### Word History:aviary

Latin: avis=bird

If you go to the *aviary* at the zoo, you will no doubt see birds flying around in a huge structure that resembles a giant cage. The word *aviary* comes from the Latin root *avis*, meaning "bird," which becomes *avia-* when it occurs in other words dealing with birds and flight. Consider *aviator*, "a man who flies a plane," *aviatrix*, "a woman who flies a plane," and *aviation*, "the operation of aircraft." In ancient Roman times, special fortune tellers used to observe the flight and feeding patterns of *aves* or "birds" in order to predict the future. Based on this superstitious custom, the old Roman expression, "to have good bird," meant that these *avian* creatures blessed you with luck.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 1 WRITING CORRECT WORDS**

On the answer line, write the word from the vocabulary list that fits each definition.

1. To prepare land for growing crops by plowing and fertilizing
2. A large enclosure for holding birds in captivity
3. To feed or to help animals to grow
4. A container in which small plants or animals are kept
5. A lizard that changes the color of its skin
6. A park for growing and exhibiting trees and shrubs
7. The scientific study of plants
8. The claw of a hunting bird
9. The environment in which a plant or animal usually lives
10. The scientific study of animals

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY**

Each of the following questions contains an italicized vocabulary word. Decide the answer to the question, and write *Yes* or *No* on the answer line.

1. Would you expect to see many tall buildings in an *arboretum*?
2. Would you keep goldfish in your *terrarium*?
3. Could an eagle use its *talons* to catch mice?
4. Does a *habitat* describe how wolves howl?
5. Does *botany* include the study of mammals?
6. At the zoo could parrots live in the *aviary*?
7. Do farmers usually *cultivate* their land?
8. Is it important for adult animals to *nurture* their young?
9. Can you include the *chameleon* in a list of animals that disguise themselves?
10. Would someone study rare species of orchids in a *zoology* class?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

### EXERCISE 3 CHOOSING THE BEST WORD

Decide which vocabulary word best completes the sentence, and write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

1. A hawk can still hunt well even if it loses one \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. aviary      b. habitat      c. terrarium      d. talon
2. Through recent studies, scientists have learned that wolves help to \_\_\_\_\_ pups from other wolves' litters.  
a. nurture      b. talon      c. cultivate      d. habitat
3. In order to grow crops, the pioneers had to \_\_\_\_\_ the land.  
a. talon      b. habitat      c. cultivate      d. nurture
4. The songs of many birds make the \_\_\_\_\_ one of the noisiest places in the zoo.  
a. aviary      b. terrarium      c. arboretum      d. habitat
5. Some people who study \_\_\_\_\_ worry about the effects of pesticides on wild animals.  
a. terrariums      b. arboretums      c. zoology      d. talons
6. If you put toads and turtles in your \_\_\_\_\_, you must remember to feed them.  
a. aviary      b. terrarium      c. botany      d. arboretum
7. The elephant's natural \_\_\_\_\_ in Africa has been shrinking because people have been cultivating more of the land.  
a. terrarium      b. aviary      c. botany      d. habitat
8. One requirement for the course in \_\_\_\_\_ is to make a collection of wild flowers.  
a. aviary      b. habitat      c. botany      d. zoology
9. On hot summer days, the shady \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the coolest places in the city.  
a. zoology      b. botany      c. terrarium      d. arboretum
10. \_\_\_\_\_ are difficult to observe in the wild because they often change color to match their surroundings.  
a. Talons      b. Chameleons      c. Terrariums      d. Aviaries

### EXERCISE 4 USING DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORDS

Decide which form of the vocabulary word in parentheses best completes the sentence. The form given may be correct. Write your answer on the answer line.

1. Large commercial farms have thousands of acres under \_\_\_\_\_. (*cultivate*)
2. The largest birds at the zoo were kept in the \_\_\_\_\_. (*aviary*)
3. Sometimes a zoo is called a \_\_\_\_\_ garden. (*zoology*)
4. Hawks, eagles, and falcons all have \_\_\_\_\_. (*talon*)
5. If you want to have this rare plant identified, show it to a \_\_\_\_\_. (*botany*)
6. Certain tropical fish cannot survive outside their natural \_\_\_\_\_. (*habitat*)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ often give names to the whales they study for many years. (*zoology*)
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ garden contained more than eighty-five varieties of plants. (*botany*)
9. In some species of animals, both parents \_\_\_\_\_ the young. (*nurture*)
10. Before planning our city's new park, the designers will visit \_\_\_\_\_ in several other cities. (*arboretum*)

### READING COMPREHENSION

Each numbered sentence in the following passages has a word or phrase that is italicized.