

Homologous traits are characteristics that are shared between different species that are related to each other in some way, even distantly, like you and a cousin having the same eye color. In contrast, analogous traits are characteristics that are similar between species that aren't related, as if you and a friend had the same hair color.

Pick three different animals in the gallery. Look at each animal and take notes below with details that catch your attention. Use the word bank below or ask your chaperone or one of our docents for help describing what you see.

Fins	Fur	Scales	Horns	Sharp teeth	Four legs	Tail	
Claws	Dull teeth	Hooves	Antlers	Tusks	Wings	Two legs	Feathers

ANIMAL 1



ANIMAL 2



ANIMAL 3

Are there similarities or differences between the animals you examined? Use two animals from above. Why might they look the same or different from one another? You can even think of your own ideas and talk about them with a classmate or two!

- _____ Animals are related to each other
- _____ Animals live in different environments
- _____ Animals eat similar foods
- _____ Animals lived in different times in Earth's history

Homologous traits are characteristics that are shared between different species that are related to each other in some way, even distantly. In contrast, analogous traits are characteristics that are similar between species that aren't related.

Pick three different animals in the gallery. Look at the anatomy - the bodily structure and characteristics - of each animal and take notes below. Make sure to include as many details as you can.

ANIMAL 1

ANIMAL 2

ANIMAL 3

Two vertical lines defining a central space for notes.

Are there similarities or differences between the animals you examined? Why might different animals look the same or different from one another? Consider the following possibilities and discuss your ideas with a classmate or two. You can even try making your own hypothesis!

- _____ Animals are not related to each other
- _____ Animals live in the same type of environment
- _____ Animals have different food sources
- _____ Animals lived in different times in Earth's history