

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Date: _____

Explore: Phylogenetic Trees

Task: In this task, you will work in pairs to examine the traits of different animals. Use the table below to identify which traits are shared among organisms. This will help you understand how scientists group organisms when building phylogenetic trees.

Trait	Salmon	Frog	Crocodile	Eagle	Wolf
Vertebra	+	+	+	+	+
Four limbs	-	+	+	+	+
Amniotic egg	-	-	+	+	+
Warm-blooded	-	-	-	+	+
Hair	-	-	-	-	-

Questions:

1. Which trait is shared by all the organisms? _____
2. Which group of organisms is most closely related based on shared traits?

3. Which organism is the most distantly related to the rest? _____
4. Use your answers to suggest which organisms should be grouped first on a phylogenetic tree.

