

Animal messages

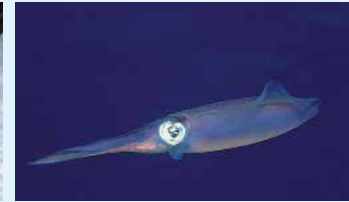
All animals can send messages. They can **communicate**. They use sound, movement, colour and smells, such as their natural **body scent**, to communicate with each other.

Most animals communicate with animals of their own kind, which helps them to survive. Animals also need to understand the way other **species** act to help them stay alive.

Scientists study how animals communicate. They believe that some animals may make sounds that always mean the same thing, almost like words. For example, they have observed that some types of monkeys make one sound to warn other monkeys that a snake is near, and a different sound to warn them about an eagle. But scientists still do not understand many things about how and why animals communicate.



Wolves use body language, smell and sound to communicate. The wolf on the left is showing the other wolf that it is the boss.



Squid use colour to communicate. A squid changes colour quickly to show it is ready to mate.



Horses use sound, touch and body language to communicate. Horses touch their muzzles to show affection.



Bees use movement to communicate. The bee in the middle dances to show other bees in its hive where to find nectar and pollen.



Deer use body language and movement to communicate. When deer flick their tails, they are telling others in their herd that danger is near.



Whales use sound and movement to communicate. They leap out of the water to show other whales that they are big and strong and would make a good mate.

How do animals communicate?

Different animals communicate in different ways. Animals can:

- make sounds;
- use colour;
- give off smells;
- move in different ways;
- touch each other;
- use chemicals;
- use **body language**;
- use light.

Why do animals communicate?

Animals communicate to:

- find food;
- warn about dangers;
- show affection;
- find a mate;
- make a rival leave;
- defend their **territory**;
- scare a **predator** away.



Did you know?

Humans have the most complex communication systems of any living thing. This is because they can use language. Language is any system of symbols that is used to communicate meaning. These symbols can be sounds (including words), body movements and print. There are at least 6,800 languages in the world.



Know your vocabulary



body language Some animals send messages to other animals by using their bodies. This is called body language. For example, a whale jumps out of the water to show other whales that it is big and strong and would make a good mate.



body scent Each animal, and each human, has a different smell. An animal's smell is called its body scent. Some animals, such as dogs, are good at following a person's body scent. This can be helpful in rescues.



communicate People and animals communicate when they send and receive messages. Animals can send messages using sound, colour, smell or movement.



predator A predator is an animal that eats other animals. The coyote is a predator of the goose because it eats geese.



species Animals are grouped according to how similar they are. A species is a group of animals that are the same in just about every way. For example, monkeys are a species and humans are a species.



territory Some animals believe that the area around where they live belongs to them, and they will fight other animals that try to move into it. This area of land is called their territory.

