

FIGURE 3.5. The vertebrates can be classified in a series of nested groups-within-groups, each group sharing a set of unique features. This pattern is explained by the underlying phylogeny that connects each species (see Fig. 9.18). The artiodactyls (even-toed ungulates) are a diverse group that includes the ruminants (shown here) but also highly modified groups such as the whales.

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