

# State Animal Superlatives



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Get familiar with Georgia's State creatures with these riddles!

## State Amphibian:

Green Tree Frog  
*Hyla cinerea*

These nocturnal carnivores eat a wide array of insects and are found throughout the Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions of Georgia. They are dark olive to bright green in coloration and have an average size of 10cm!



## State Bird:

Brown Thrasher  
*Toxostoma rufa*

Found statewide in wooded areas, these birds are an auburn brown with a dark patterned belly. As omnivores, they can be spotted eating berries, macroinvertebrates, and more!



## State Butterfly:

Tiger Swallowtail  
*Papilio glaucus*

Often seen in North Georgia or other wooded areas, these large butterflies sip on nectar and aid in pollination. They are a bright yellow with black "tiger stripes" that make them easy to identify!



## State Fish:

Largemouth Bass  
*Micropterus salmoides*

A top predator of the aquatic ecosystem, these fish can grow to be over 20 inches long and can weigh over 15 pounds! These carnivores can be found in freshwater statewide.



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## State Insect:

Honey bee  
*Apis*

Found in hives statewide and notorious for their pollinating power, these insects play a powerful role in our world. They're golden brown with black stripes and are only about 15mm long!



## State Marine Animal:

Right Whale  
*Eubalaena glacialis*

These mammals are found in the ocean, off the coast of Georgia. They are carnivores that can weigh up to 70 tons. They can also be up to 50 feet long (they're larger than a school bus)!



## State Reptile:

Gopher Tortoise  
*Gopherus polyphemus*

15 inches long and 8-15 pounds on average, these incredible reptiles are typically herbivorous and munch on grasses or berries. They're typically found in southern Georgia.



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## Activity

Using the information above and context clues from the superlatives, figure out which fits in the blank and then draw your own picture of each!

<p>1. The _____ has hundreds of comblike “teeth” so that it can eat as it moves! They also have heads that can be up to <math>\frac{1}{3}</math> of their total body length!</p>	
<p>2. Among many other skills, the _____ has a wide range of vocal cords and can sing over 1,100 different notes. Some of their songs are even imitations of other species!</p>	
<p>3. The _____ has sticky pads on their toes that allow them to climb up smooth surfaces! Their belly skin can also aid in allowing them to cling!</p>	
<p>4. Can you imagine having a sixth sense?! The _____ has a lateral line as part of its anatomy, meaning that it can sense vibrations of activity around them!</p>	

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<p>5. The _____ are masters of disguise and are professionals at camouflage. They can even mimic other species which can aid in their survival!</p>	
<p>6. The _____ has an impressive lifespan - they can live up to 80 years and are considered a keystone species because their presence has a massive role in their ecosystem!</p>	
<p>7. The _____ will communicate by doing a “waggle dance”. They move their bodies in intentional ways in order to locate the best food sources!</p>	

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## Answer Key

1. Right Whale
2. Brown Thrasher
3. Green Tree Frog
4. Largemouth Bass
5. Tiger Swallowtail
6. Gopher Tortoise
7. Honey Bee