



Learning Objectives



At the end of this lesson the students will be able to:

- ◆ Understand the external morphology of the leech and rabbit.
- ◆ Recognise the structural features of different organ systems.
- ◆ Will be able to understand the physiology of various organ systems of leech and rabbit.
- ◆ Learn the parasitic adaptations of leech.
- ◆ Identify the type of dentition and its significance in rabbit.
- ◆ Perceive the differences between the structural organisation of an invertebrate (leech) and vertebrate (rabbit).

Introduction

The variety in nature and habits of animals in the biosphere are quite amazing and interesting. What we see around us may be just few, but there are innumerable species living in this world. You have learnt in lower classes about the classification of animal kingdom. We will recall here that '**Kingdom Animalia**' is divided into two groups, **Invertebrates** and **Chordates**.

There occurs a great diversity in the habit, habitat, structural organisation and mode of reproduction between the animals existing on earth. In this chapter, you will understand the structural morphology and anatomy of an Invertebrate (Leech) and a Vertebrate (Rabbit).

The scientific name of the Indian cattle leech is *Hirudinaria granulosa* which belongs to **Phylum Annelida**. Annelids are **metamerically segmented worms** with well developed organ systems.

The scientific name of the common rabbit is *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. It represents **Phylum Chordata** and **Class Mammalia**. Mammals occupy the highest group in the animal kingdom and show advancement over the other groups of animals. They are warm blooded and possess covering of hair on the body. Mammary gland in females is the most striking feature of a mammal. Let us now study about the morphology of leech and rabbit in detail.

