Recognizing Symmetry

Letters of the alphabet can illustrate the nature of symmetry.

# Materials

## Capital letters of the alphabet

## A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

### Procedures

1. Cut out each of capital letters in individual “squares” and spread them on the table in front of you for observation.
2. Sort the letters into THREE groups based on their symmetry:

(1) asymmetry

(2) radial symmetry

(3) bilateral symmetry

For example, the letter “J” is asymmetrical. Assume “O” is a perfect circle, demonstrating radial symmetry. The letter “A”shows bilateral symmetry.

1. Once the letters are all sorted, take a picture and insert below:

#### Conclusions and Questions

1. Which category of symmetry contains the most letters? Do you think most organisms in nature follow this same pattern of symmetry? Explain your answer.

2. List any letters you found difficult to classify, explaining why it was difficult to classify these letters. Would this apply to organisms in nature as well?

BONUS (after Week 27’s class)

Identify the group of letters that show the same kind of symmetry as:

1. sponges (*Porifera*)
2. hydra (C*oelenterates,* *Cnidarians*)
3. earthworms (*Annelida*)
4. starfish (*Echinoderm*)
5. clams (M*ollusk*)
6. grasshoppers (*Arthropod*, *Insecta*)
7. eagles (*Chordata*, A*ves*)
8. humans (*Chordata,* M*ammal*)