

# Sexual Dimorphism

Have you ever wondered why **males** and **females** sometimes look different? Here's why!

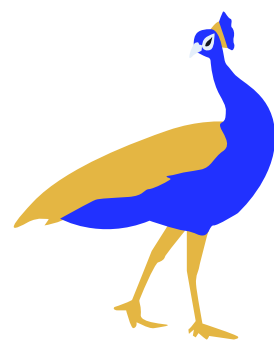
## Males

## Females

### Peacocks



Look at the **bright, beautiful feathers** on this peacock! The feathers show the female peacocks they are **healthy** and **make good partners**.



This female peacock has **no colorful feathers** and doesn't stand out so when she is **protecting her eggs**, she can **blend in** and **stay safe**.

### Lions

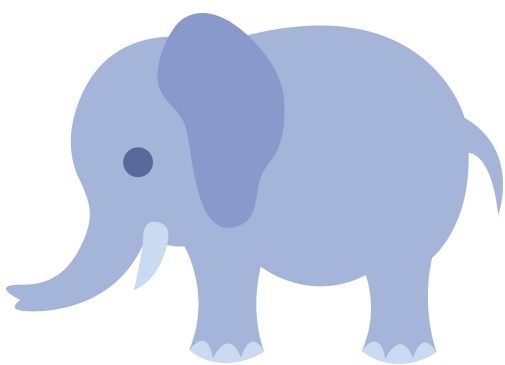


Woah! What a **hairy mane**. The male lion's mane shows other lions he is **healthy** and a **good fighter**

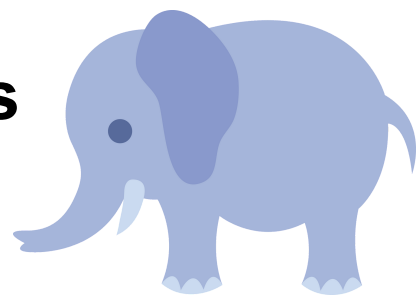


The female lion is in charge of **feeding her family**. A mane would **get in the way of her hunting**.

### Mastodons & Elephants



Look at those **huge tusks**! Male mastodons had **longer tusks** and were **bigger** than females to **compete for mates**.



The female had **smaller tusks and bodies** to help them **take care of their babies**. This is similar to elephants now!

These differences help animals survive and mate in the wild!

### Key Concepts

**Sexual Dimorphism:** the male and the female of the same species look different.

**Coloring:** Females are usually duller colors than males to protect their babies.

**Mate selection:** the way species choose who they want to have babies with.