Classifying coral life

Does it have leaves?  
- Yes: plant
- No: coral

Does it move from one place to another?  
- Yes: phytoplankton
- No:

Does it drift on the ocean current?  
- Yes: phytoplankton
- No:

Does it have a backbone?  
- Yes:
  - Does it give birth to live babies?  
    - Yes: mammal
    - No: bird
  - Does it have spiny skin?  
    - Yes: echinoderm
    - No:
  - Does it have feathers?  
    - Yes: bird
    - No: fish
- No:

Does it have a hard jointed body?  
- Yes: crustacean
- No:

Does it have spiny skin?  
- Yes: echinoderm
- No:

Does it have gills?  
- Yes: fish
- No: reptile

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**Scientific groups**
A key is a series of questions that scientists use to sort and group life. Keys use the fact that similar types of life share characteristics. For each example, for coral life, decide how it should be classified and write the name of each plant, algae or animal in the correct group below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Coral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phytoplankton</td>
<td>Mammal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reptile</td>
<td>Echinoderm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollusc</td>
<td>Crustacean</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Can you complete the following sentences using the information from the key?

1. A tiger shark is a fish, because...
2. A crown-of-thorns-starfish is an echinoderm, because...
3. A dolphin is a mammal, because...
4. A green turtle is a reptile, because...