

Title: Know Your Animals

Objective: Recognize animals that belong in different categories within the animal kingdom

Time: 10-20 minutes

Materials Needed: Chart paper, markers, journals (optional)

Interdisciplinary lesson

Theme: Animals

Topic: Animal Characteristics

Suggested Grade Level: K-5

Indoors or Outdoors: Either

Directions:

1. Prepare a chart with seven columns. Label the columns: Mammals, Birds, Fish, Reptiles, Amphibians, Insects and Arachnids.
2. Instruct students to walk up and draw or write an animal name under one of the categories on the chart with no repeats.
3. Once all students have added a name or drawing of an animal to the chart, ask students if they can think of other animals that could be added to each of the categories. Ask them to add one more animal to the chart.
4. Use the list of animals on the chart for a discussion.
5. Consider displaying the chart in the classroom and encouraging students to add to the list in the next couple of days.

Variation: Older students may make these seven columns in their journals and add several animals to each category.

Discussion Questions:

1. Was it easier to come up with animals with no repeats in one category over another? Explain why/why not.
2. Could an animal fit in more than one category? Use evidence to support your claim.
3. Where would you put yourself on this chart? Use evidence to support your claim.

Science and Engineering Practices:

4. Analyzing and interpreting data; 7. Engaging in argument from evidence; 8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

Crosscutting Concepts:

1. Patterns; 6. Structure and function.

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

Life Sciences: LS 3: Heredity: Inheritance and variation of traits.

Background Information:

- **Vertebrates** are animals with backbones. **Invertebrates** are animals without backbones.
- **Amphibians** are cold blooded vertebrates that have moist skin and larvae that live in water.
- **Arachnids** are invertebrates with eight legs. Spiders, scorpions, mites and ticks are arachnids.
- **Birds** are warm-blooded vertebrates that have feathers.
- **Fish** are cold-blooded vertebrates with scaly skin, fins and tails for swimming, and gills for breathing underwater.
- **Insects** are invertebrates with three body parts: head, thorax, and abdomen. They also have six legs and two antennae.
- **Mammals** are warm-blooded vertebrates with hair. Females' mammary glands produce milk that is used to feed young.
- **Reptiles** are cold-blooded vertebrates with dry scaly skin. Eggs are laid on land.

Additional Resources: (Set of Science Vocabulary Readers)

- *Incredible Insects* by Zoe Barnes
- *Awesome Amphibians* by Jeff Bauer
- *Fantastic Fish* by Elizabeth Bennett
- *Marvelous Mammals* by Lydia Carlin
- *Beautiful Birds* and *Really Cool Reptiles* by Justin McCory Martin

Correlates with:

Greeting - Animal Ball Toss (p. 2)

Activity - What Animal Am I? (p. 78)