

All the Animals

Suggested Grade Level: 2-4

Character: Respect, Fairness/Justice

Relative Subject(s): Science

Objective(s): Students will be able to classify where pets live and where wild animals live and to understand the differences. Students will also classify and understand what a mammal is and which mammals are companion animals.

Materials:

- Worksheet: "What Kind of Mammal is it?"
- Each student should bring in one stuffed animal or puppet from home (encourage them to bring all different types of animals).
- Pictures of various types of habitats of wild animals and various types of homes where pets live (include pictures of houses, pets on their beds inside their home, hamsters/gerbils/mice/rats in cages w/ toys, pets with their families playing in their homes, etc.)

ACTIVITY

Preliminary Discussion (this can be done the day before to get them thinking and excited about the activities)

Wild vs. Companion Animal:

- How is a wild animal different than a pet? Who takes care of pets? Who takes care of wild animals?
- Discuss that we can enjoy wild animals simply by watching them and learning about them, but that we shouldn't touch them, go near them or feed them. Wild animals may bite if they feel threatened. We also do not want them to get used to "human" food because then they will depend on us to feed them.

Shelter for animals:

- What kind of home does a pet need? Why is it important that pets live in our homes rather than outside? What can happen to them outside? How can the weather affect them? Where does a pet like a hamster, guinea pig or rabbit live? They live in cages but we need to take them out of their cages to play with them, exercise them and give them love and attention.
- What kind of home does a wild animal have? Should we ever bring a wild animal into our home?
- Which wild animals live in your neighborhood? Why do wild animals live in cities and towns?
- Discuss how people have built neighborhoods in areas where wild animals live, so we must share these areas with them.
- Define "habitat" and discuss examples. Discuss why it's important for people to protect their habitats. Ask the students for ideas about how they could do that.

Mammals:

Nebraska Humane Society
8929 Fort Street Omaha, NE 68134 402.444.7800 www.nehumanesociety.org

- What is a "mammal?" Webster's Dictionary defines a mammal as "Any of various warm-blooded vertebrate animals of the class Mammalia, including human beings, characterized by a covering of hair on the skin and, in the female, milk-producing mammary glands for nourishing the young.
- Ask for examples of mammals. What are some mammals that you have seen before? List them on the chalkboard.
- How does having hair protect a mammal's body?
- Why do female mammals produce milk?
- How is a "live" birth different from a bird that lays eggs?

Procedure

Have each student tell the class what kind of animal they brought in, whether it is a pet or a wild animal and where it lives. Take the pictures of homes and habitats and spread them out on a table or the floor. Ask each student to match his or her animal to its home. Ask them why their animal lives in this kind of home? and what kind of things does your animal need in its home?

Discuss that there are different ways to classify mammals. Some mammals can be classified as "companion animals." Define "companion animal." Ask for examples of mammals that are companion animals (pets) and what types of pets the students have at home. Make a list of companion animals on the chalkboard. Define "wild animal." Discuss that some mammals can be classified as "wild animals."

Ask the students for examples of mammals that are wild animals. What types of wild animals live in their neighborhood or around the school? Make a list of wild animals on the chalkboard. How are the companion animals different from the wild animals, even though they are both mammals?

Pass out the worksheet, "What Kind of Mammal is it?" Have the students classify the mammals on the worksheet as companion animals or wild animals.

Post-Discussion

Why is it important to know if a mammal is a companion animal or a wild animal?

Can a companion animal ever become wild? A companion animal, like a dog, has been domesticated for approximately 14,000 years and it depends on people for all of its needs. It cannot survive in the wild.

Can a wild animal ever become a companion animal or pet? No, it takes thousands of years to domesticate a species.

If a wild animal, such as a squirrel, fox or raccoon, lives close to your home, can it be considered a companion animal? Even though many wild animals have adapted to living among people, they are still wild and should be treated as such.

Extension Activities

As a class, pick an animal that the students are scared of or think is strange or ugly. Learn about the animal: how it acts, where it lives, why it is important or unique.

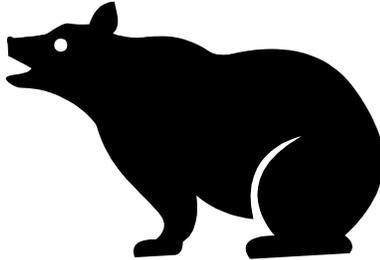
Discuss other types of "vertebrates," such as fish, amphibians, reptiles and birds.

Nebraska Humane Society
8929 Fort Street Omaha, NE 68134 402.444.7800 www.nehumanesociety.org

Information adapted from the Denver Dumb Friends League

What Kind of Mammal is it?

Each mammal listed can be classified as a "companion animal" or a "wild animal." Write which kind it is on the blank line.



1. Dog _____

8. Guinea pig _____

2. Wolf _____

9. Raccoon _____

3. Cat _____

10. Mountain lion _____

4. Gorilla _____

11. Deer _____

5. Coyote _____

12. Hamster _____

6. Gerbil _____

13. Bear _____

7. Squirrel _____

14. Puppy _____

15. Sparrow _____