

All Animals Are Important

Suggested Grade Level: Kindergarten-3

Character: Respect, Kindness

Objective: To understand that all animals are important and special in their own way.

Materials:

- Animal picture cards
- Books with pictures of the animals featured on the animal cards
- Poster paper
- Crayons
- Construction paper

Activity

Preliminary Discussion

- Name an animal that you like. Why do you like it? Have you ever seen it or touched it? What do you know about it?
- Name an animal that you don't like. Why don't you like it? Have you ever seen it or touched it? Is this animal scary? Why? What do you know about it?
- Why do we like some animals and not others? Discuss that every animal is special and important in some way, just like people.

Procedure

Cut the animal cards that are provided and laminate them. You may want to enlarge them on a copier. Show each animal card to the class and have the students discuss all the positive attributes of this animal. You may also want to bring in books with photos of each animal to show the class.

Why is each animal special and important? Make a list for each animal on poster paper and hang them up with their cards. Ask each student to choose one of the animals that was discussed and think of a positive story about the animal. Have them draw pictures on construction paper and ask them to tell you their story so you can write it underneath the picture.

Have each student share their story with the class. Laminate all of the pictures and stories and combine them to make a book, entitled "All Animals Are Important." Keep the book in your classroom library.

Post-Discussion

- Why did you choose this animal? Where have you seen this animal before?
- If we think that an animal looks strange or is different, does that mean it's bad?

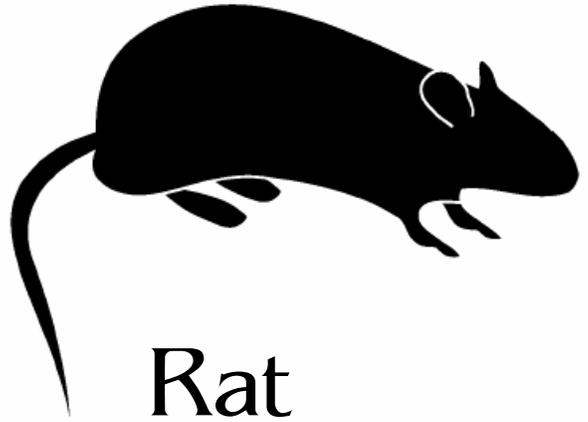
Extension Activity

Read *Little Red Riding Hood* and then learn about real wolves. Compare the differences.

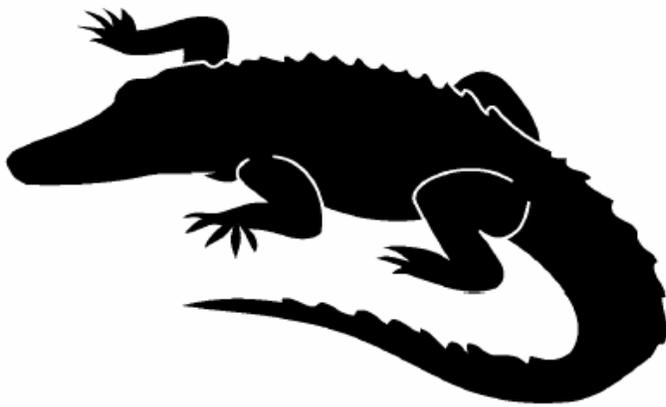
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Bird



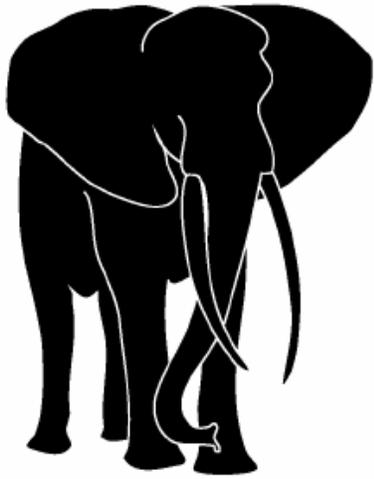
Rat



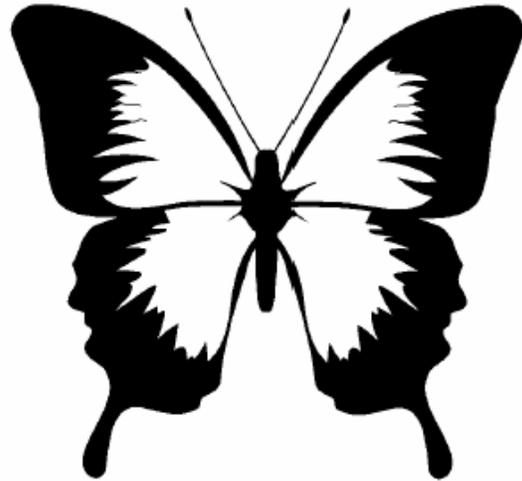
Alligator



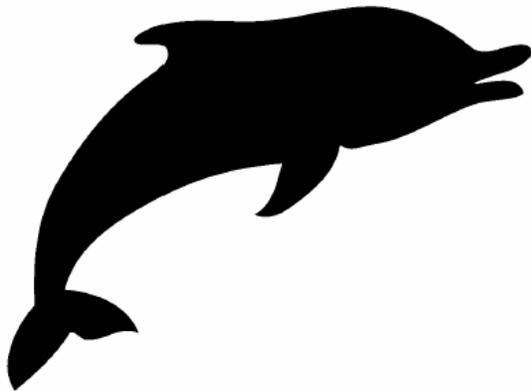
Cat



Elephant



Butterfly



Dolphin



Skunk

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Information adapted from the Denver Dumb Friends League