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UNIT OVERVIEW

ANIMAL LIFE CYCLES

The "Animal Life Cycles" unit looks at the life cycles of ten different animals. It studies two different mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and insects. Children learn how these animals live plus how they grow and change as they move from young animals to adults. Children practice their reading and writing skills as they read and learn about the different animals. They use their knowledge to answer a number of questions. Included in this unit are animal fact cards, a student booklet, a research outline, a final report outline, a match game, a unit test, and a unit evaluation.

ANIMAL FACT CARDS

A two page fact card is provided for each animal studied in the unit. The two fact cards can be mounted on a sheet of bristol board or manilla tag and laminated. One fact card can be mounted on each side of the bristol board. The fact cards provide easy references for the children to learn about the animals and to answer the questions about the animals in their student booklets.

STUDENT BOOKLET

The student booklet is ready to be photocopied for student use. After the children read about an animal, they answer questions about the animal, draw the animal's life cycle, and use the information learned to fill in the blanks in a number of sentences about the animal. This unit looks at two animals in each of five categories: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and insects. After the two animals are studied, the children review the characteristics of the animals in that category and then compare the two animals by recording their similarities and differences.



DAILY LESSON PLAN

ANIMAL LIFE CYCLES

Below is a suggested daily lesson plan for teaching the "Animal Life Cycles" unit.

BRAINSTORMING

As a class, brainstorm words and facts associated with the animal being studied. Print the words and facts on chart paper. Include all responses given by the children. Inaccurate responses can be crossed off the lists after the children finish learning about the animal.

ANIMAL FACT CARDS

Children read the animal fact cards individually, with a partner, in a small group, or as a class. They read the fact cards a number of times and then answer the questions in their student booklets.

STUDENT BOOKLETS

The children answer five questions about the animal being studied. Remind the children to answer the questions in complete sentences. They then draw four stages in the life cycle of the animal and complete a fill in the blank activity. These activities can all be found in the student booklets.

REPORT WRITING ACTIVITY

After completing their student booklets, the children work on an animal report. They choose an animal they want to learn more about. Children use the research outline provided with this unit. When their research is complete they use the animal report outline included in this unit. Each day the children spend time working on their reports.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Whenever the children have free time they work on one of the additional activities included in this unit. They play the vocabulary match game, complete the crossword puzzle, find the words in the word search puzzle, or solve the 'What Am I?' riddles.



ANIMAL FACT CARDS

TURTLES FACT CARD

TURTLES FACT CARD

REPTILES

Turtles are reptiles.
Reptiles are cold-blooded animals.
They have lungs and breathe air.
Reptiles have a backbone.
They have scales covering their bodies.



APPEARANCE

Turtles have a short, wide body and stumpy feet.
They are covered with a shell.
The top shell protects the backbone and ribs.
The bottom shell protects the stomach.
Some turtles live for over 50 years.

EATING HABITS

Turtles eat plants and small animals.
They have no teeth.
They have sharp jaws to help them eat.
Their jaws tear the food into smaller pieces.
Turtles eat the small pieces whole.



STUDENT BOOKLET

BLACK BEARS

B. Look in books about black bear. Draw four stages in the life cycle of the black bear.

Birth	Five Weeks	Growing Up	Adult

C. Fill in each blank with a word from the box below:

- Black bears are _____.
- Mother bears teach their _____ how to survive.
- Wolves, mountain lions, and _____ are a black bear's enemies.
- Claws help a black bear dig for _____.
- Cubs are tiny, blind, and _____.
- Black bears are good _____ climbers.
- Cubs are usually born during _____.
- Black bears live in _____.
- Cubs leave the _____ when they are five weeks old.
- Father bears do not help _____ their

food	mammals	forests	cubs	den
tree	hairless	hibernation	raise	man



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH OUTLINE

Name of Animal: _____

Type of Animal: _____

(mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, insect)

Appearance

* _____
* _____
* _____
* _____
* _____

Eating Habits

* _____
* _____
* _____
* _____
* _____

Home

* _____
* _____
* _____
* _____
* _____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

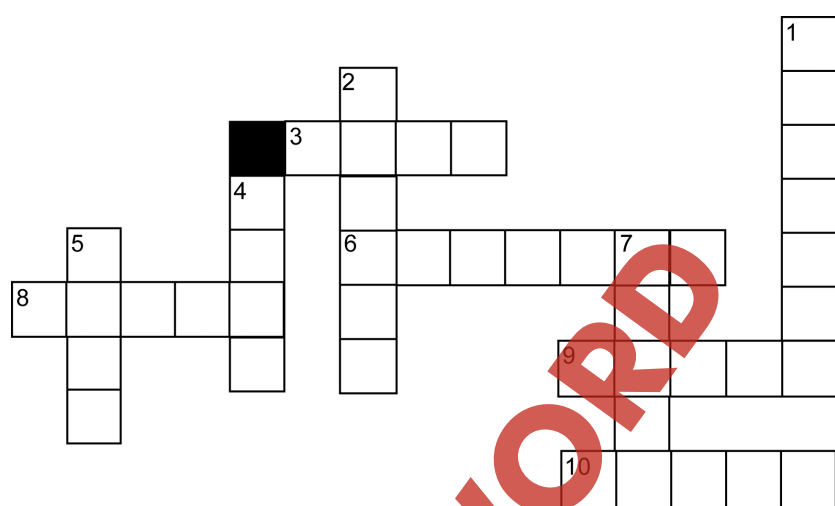
VOCABULARY MATCH



danger	something that can cause harm
backbone	the main bone in the middle of the back
migrate	a movement from one place to another place
enemies	a group that causes harm to others
young	small animals

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

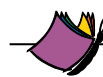
- 3 Frogs have webbed _____ to help them swim.
- 6 Blue whales are the _____ animals on earth.
- 8 Most salamanders come out at _____.
- 9 Canada geese have _____ to help them eat.
- 10 Ladybugs are red with _____ marks.

DOWN

- 1 Garter snakes have three _____ running down their back.
- 2 Honeybees eat _____ and honey.
- 4 Black bears eat lots of _____ to get ready for the winter.
- 5 Penguins eat mainly _____.
- 7 Turtles are covered with a _____.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

UNIT TEST



A. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

- 1. _____ are the largest animals on earth.
- 2. Ladybugs are _____ with black marks.
- 3. Garter snakes make an _____ with their body as they move.
- 4. Black bears hibernate in _____.
- 5. Salamanders hunt for food at _____.
- 6. Canada geese fly _____ for the winter.
- 7. Penguins stay in the _____ for weeks at a time.
- 8. Turtles are covered with a _____.
- 9. Tadpoles breathe through _____.
- 10. Honeybees _____ their enemies.

B. VOCABULARY - Write the meaning of the following:

- 1. hibernate _____

- 2. animal _____

