

The UBC Okanagan Let's Talk Science New Activity Challenge

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Background Information

This is a fun biology activity for children to learn more about animals. This activity is fun, easy, and allows them to learn through an engaging competition. It is perfect to be a Let's Talk Science activity in schools or event booths.

The children will be learning about the six main groups of animals. The instructors will also require basic knowledge regarding these animal groups, as they will need to make a brief presentation before the game.

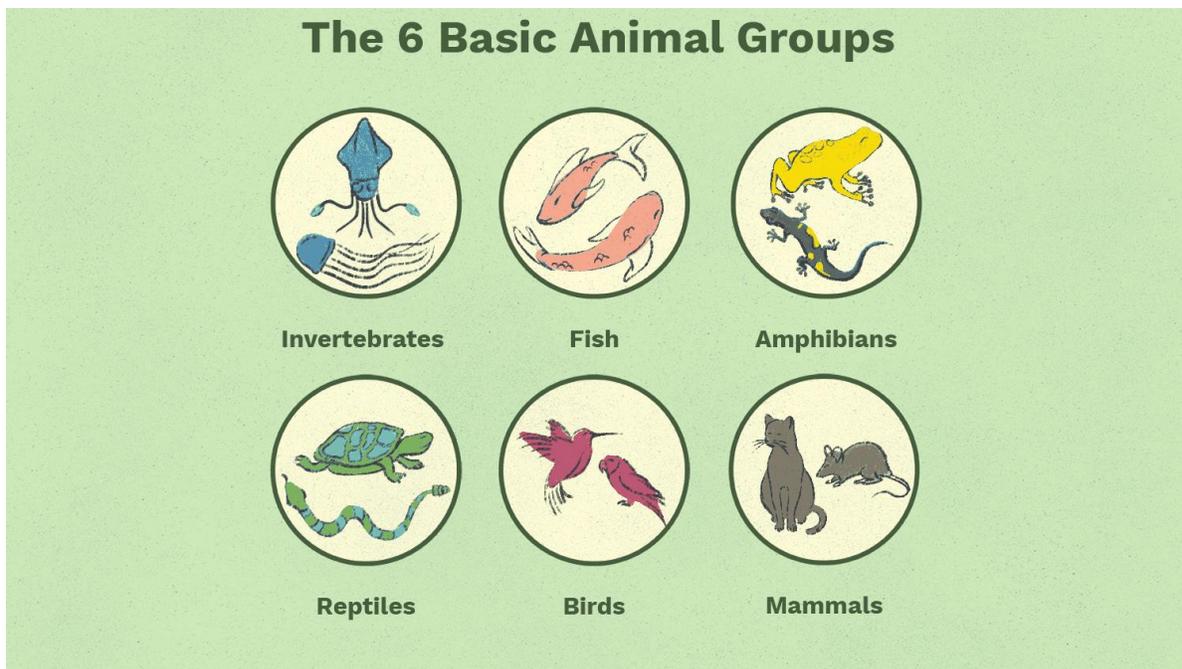
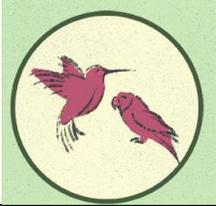
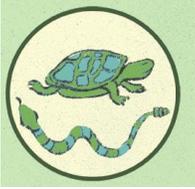
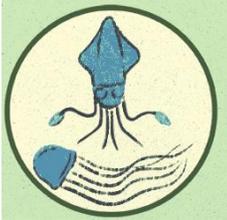


Figure 1. The 6 Basic Animal Groups (ThoughtCo., 2019).

Below is the content of the presentation.

Main Groups of Animals	Traits	Examples
<p>1. Mammals</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink milk from their mothers when they are babies • Usually have hair on their bodies • Have teeth to chew their foods • Warm-blooded animals 	<p>Human, Elephant, Pig, Tiger, Whale, Dog, Cat, Bat, Dolphin, Kangaroo, Sheep, Donkey, Monkey, Rat, and Horse</p>
<p>2. Birds</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have feathers and beaks • Born out of hard-shell eggs • Not all birds can fly, but they usually have wings 	<p>Duck, Chicken, Goose, Eagle, Parrot, Penguin, Owl, Pigeon, Crow, and Woodpecker</p>
<p>3. Fish</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vertebrates live in the water • Usually have gills, scales, and fins on their body • Cold-blooded animals 	<p>Clownfish, Salmon, Tuna, Stingray, Halibut, and Eel</p>
<p>4. Amphibians</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can live on land and in the water • Usually born in water and move to the land when they grow up • have soft, moist, and scale-less skin that help them absorb water and oxygen • cold-blooded animals • Like to live close to areas that are filled with water such as ponds, swamps, and marshlands • go into hibernation during hot and dry 	<p>Frog, Toad, Salamander, Caecilian, and Newt</p>

	weather to stay hydrated	
<p>5. Reptiles</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold-blooded animals • Usually have scales on their skin • Usually inactive during winters • Oldest animals in the world but most of them become extinct like dinosaurs • Usually lay leathery eggs 	<p>Lizard, Snake, Turtle, Skink, Crocodile, Tortoise, Alligator, Chameleon, Caiman, and Viper, Dinosaur</p>
<p>6. Invertebrates (most insects)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals without a backbone or bony skeleton • Largest group of animals (97% of all animals are invertebrates) • High reproduction level • Most insects are invertebrates 	<p>Bee, Scorpion, Fly, Cockroach, Snail, Centipede, Worm, Millipede, Hydra, Jellyfish, Crab, Spider and Lobster</p>

References:

Strauss, B. (2019, November 16). *6 Basic Animal Classes*. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-six-basic-animal-groups-4096604>

Simply E-learn kids. (2017, February 11). *Types of Animals for kids - compilation - Learning videos for kids* [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0n0SHppUNlw>

Nayturr. (n.d.). *6 Main Types of Animals*. Retrieved from <https://nayturr.com/types-of-animals/>

Learning Outcome

This activity is perfect for helping any age group to learn more about biology and animals, as many children love animals. It is not only fun, but it is also an engaging way for children to learn and absorb information on a topic they are interested in. Passively listening to a presentation about a topic is not always very effective for retaining knowledge. By having the children engage in a fun competition, they will apply the material learned, which leads to a better understanding and memorization of the material. This activity can potentially develop their interests in biology.

Activity Budget

This is a super easy and affordable activity. It does not require many materials and equipment, nor does it require water and electricity.

Required Materials: a poster for presentation purposes (can also use a laptop and projector), cards for each combination of an alphabet letter and an animal group (alternative: the instructors can simply shout out the instructions, but cards are more effective), Snacks that can be given as a reward for the winning team

Game: Animals Meet Alphabet

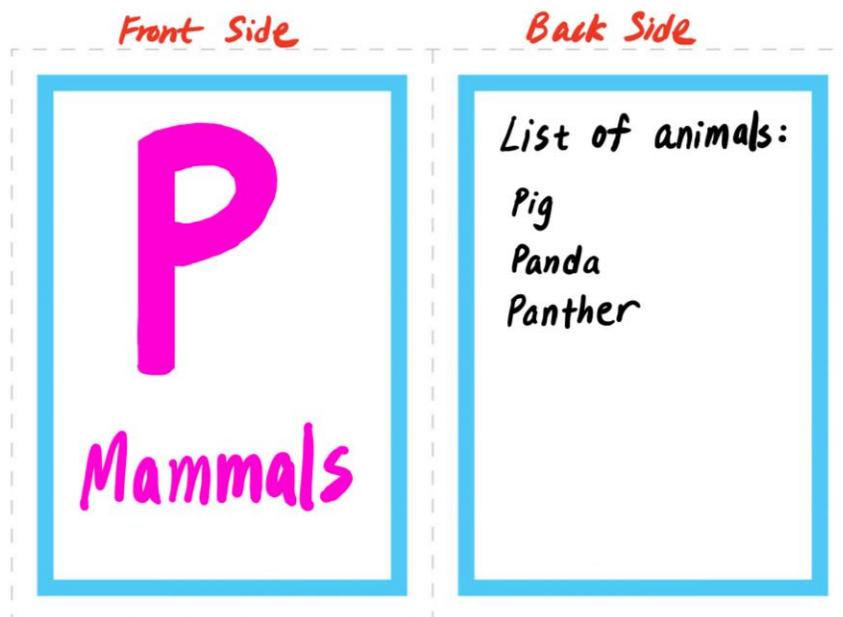
After the presentation is made by the instructors, the children can now be involved in a fun and engaging game called "Animals Meet Alphabet". It is perfect game for children to apply the information learned from the instructors' presentation, and therefore result in a better understanding. It is suitable for either a large group or small group of children.

Rules of the Game

Audience: a class of children

1. Separate the class of children into teams of 2, 3 or 4 depending on the size of the class. For example, in a class of even number of children such as 20, separate them into 2 or 4 teams. If the class has an odd number of children, separate the children into 3 teams. Make sure each team has about the same number of children.
2. Have the children line up in their respective teams.

3. The instructors will give an instruction for the round that includes an alphabet letter and one of the six main groups of animals (either using card, writing on the board or verbally shouting out the instruction).
4. The first student in line from each team will compete in shouting out the animal that matches the instruction by starting with the correct alphabet letter and is in the correct group of animals.
5. Whichever child representative gives a correct answer the fastest wins and will stay for the next round. The rest of the representatives who lost will go to the back of the line and are eliminated. For example, if the instruction is a mammal starts with the letter "P", the answers could be pig, panda, or panther.
6. (Optional) The instructions can be made more difficult for older groups of children. The instructors can also add characteristics such as the color of the animal and the food that the animal eats to get more specific answers.
7. The instructions can be presented with pre-made cards. Please look below for reference.



8. The game is over when all the children in a team are eliminated. The teams with remaining members win or the remaining teams can battle until there is only one remaining team. The winning team can receive awards like snacks.
9. If a situation is encountered where all the representatives from each team cannot give an answer within a minute, the instructors will count from 10 to 0 as the final count

down. If no one can answer, all the representatives will be eliminated and move to the back of the line.

At the end of the game, the instructors can make a brief comment about how all the animals play a significant part in the ecosystem, and therefore we should protect the endangered wildlife species to retain a healthy ecosystem.

Audience: small group of children (only 2-5 children)

Let the children compete each other, whoever answers the greatest number of questions will win.

Advantages of this Activity

1. Low cost and adaptable to different environments
2. Can be participated by different number of children
3. Fosters an interest in animals and wildlife in young children
4. Can be easily modified for a wider range of ages by adding more specific characteristics to the instructions
5. Safe and not messy
6. Easy to clean up
7. Does not require water or electricity
8. Encourages classroom engagements through team competitions

Contact

If you would like to contact me, please email me at vicky991030@gmail.com. I hope you like this activity. Thanks!