



Amazing Animals

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL 1

Objective	To learn how various pets' bodies are designed to help them survive in their environments.
Materials	<i>Activity Sheet</i> A Special Thing About Me

<p>Activity Procedure</p> <p>National Standards:</p> <p>Science 4.3 Life Science</p> <p>English 12.3 Evaluation strategies 12.4 Communication skills</p> <p>Technology 12.4 Technology communication tools</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write the following words on the board for use as column headers: fin, claw, feather, ears, and fur. Make sure the children understand what a fin is, what a claw is, etc. Ask how an animal uses each part. (Possible answers: Fin to swim, claw to scratch and dig, fur for warmth, etc.) 2. Ask the children: <i>Think about a dog. Does a dog have a fin? Does a dog have a claw?</i> etc. When you have finished filling in the answers for a dog, ask about a cat, a bird, a fish, and a hamster. Use the children's responses to fill in the chart. 3. Ask the children what information they can gather from looking at the chart. Questions to ask include: <i>What animals have claws? How do these animals use their claws? What animals don't have claws? Why don't they need them? Why would having claws be important? What might happen if they didn't have these things?</i> 4. Distribute copies of the Activity Sheet and ask the children to select one of the animals you have discussed to complete their sheets. 5. Invite the children to share their pictures with the class. (Afterwards, display the pictures in the classroom.) 6. Extend the activity by returning to the topic of dogs and asking the children to think about specific kinds of dogs. Can they think of any types of dogs that have special features that allow them to perform special work? (Possible answers: Huskies have extra-thick fur so they can live in cold places and pull sleds in snow. Some dogs such as dachshunds and terriers have short legs so they can follow their prey down into holes in the ground.)
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Science/Language Arts	EXTEND THIS LESSON
	Have the children research the attributes of other animals on the Internet. Then have each child report his or her most interesting finding to the class.

Name _____ Date _____



A Special Thing About Me

Animal Name: _____

Draw a picture of your animal here.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for the child to draw their pet.

What is special about me is:

It is special because it helps me do these things:

