# Animals Do Many Things

**Suggested Grade Level:** 3

## Objective
To discuss the importance of animals by examining all the important things they do to help people, other animals, and the environment. To consider a world without animals and what it would be like.

## Materials
- Activity Sheet: Animals are Special

## Activity Procedure

### National Standards:
- **English**
  - 12.3 Evaluation strategies
  - 12.4 Communication skills
  - 12.5 Communication strategies

1. Put the headings “People,” “Animals,” and “Environment” on the board. Explain that animals do important things that help people, other animals, and the environment. Ask students to provide examples. (Sample answers: For people: bees make honey, cows give milk, dogs help people who cannot see, long ago horses provided transportation, watching fish swim helps to reduce stress. For other animals: Dolphins will help other dolphins who are sick or injured, monkeys take turns cleaning or grooming each other. For the environment: bees pollinate flowers, bats eat insects that harm crops, squirrels bury nuts and help new trees to grow.)

2. Distribute copies of the Activity Sheet and ask students to draw a picture to illustrate one of the ideas on the chart. Have students share their drawings.

3. Ask students: What would the world be like without animals? Encourage students to think about what they’ve learned about animals and what they would miss most in a world without animals.

## Extend This Lesson
**Language Arts**

Explain to students that research about the animal-human bond has shown that pets contribute to the health and welfare of children in unique ways. Caring for a pet can improve a child’s confidence and self-esteem. Pets can also provide laughter and smiles, as well as companionship. Ask students to share stories about their pets and the things they do to make them feel good. Then have each student write a story about a pet who makes someone feel good. Put the stories together, create a cover entitled “Happy Tails From Room _____,” and bind the pages to make a book.
## Animals Are Special

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is this animal doing?</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How does it help people? Other animals? The environment?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What would happen if this animal became extinct?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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