

Lesson: Animal Classification “Guess Who!”

Grades: 3-6



Objective:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to ask yes-or-no questions based on animal classification characteristics to identify an animal from a set of picture cards.

Skills:

- Ask questions and make predictions
- Use critical thinking to identify simple patterns
- Make simple inferences based on their results and prior knowledge

Concepts:

- Identifying vertebrates vs invertebrates
- Identifying the five classifications of vertebrates
- Understanding interspecies relationships

Materials:

- Whiteboard or flip chart with markers.
- Optional: Timer for time constraints in the game.
- “Guess Who” game set
- Animal insert and ID cards

Background Information:

What is Animal Classification?

Animal classification is the process of organizing and grouping animals together based on their similarities and differences. Scientists use this system to categorize and study the vast diversity of animals found on Earth. Animals are classified into different groups called taxa, which include categories like kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species.

- There are two main groups of animals: vertebrates and invertebrates.
- Vertebrates are animals with a backbone.

The Five Main Groups of Vertebrate Animals:

1. Mammals: Animals that have hair or fur, are warm-blooded, give birth to live young, and produce milk to feed their babies.
2. Birds: Animals with feathers, beaks, and lay hard-shelled eggs.
3. Fish: Animals that live in water, have gills to breathe, and most have scales on their bodies.
4. Reptiles: Animals with dry, scaly skin and lay leathery eggs.
5. Amphibians: Animals that live both in water and on land, usually start their lives as aquatic larvae with gills, and then undergo metamorphosis to become adults with lungs.

Characteristics for Classification:

Animal classification is based on various characteristics, including physical features, habitat, diet, and reproductive methods. These characteristics help scientists determine which group an animal belongs to. For example, having feathers would classify an animal as a bird, while having scales and living in water would classify an animal as a fish.

Importance of Animal Classification:

Animal classification is crucial for understanding the relationships between different species, studying biodiversity, and identifying unique characteristics within each group. It helps scientists communicate and organize information about animals effectively.

Procedure:

Introduction (10 minutes):

- Begin the lesson by briefly reviewing the concept of animal classification with the students.
- Explain that they will be playing a fun game called "Guess Who?" using animal cards.
- Show a couple of example animal picture cards to familiarize the students with the animals they might encounter in the game.

Game Setup (5 minutes):

- Distribute one game board or sheet and one set of animal picture cards to each student or group.
- Explain that each student or group will randomly select one animal picture card without showing it to anyone.

Playing the "Guess Who?" Game (30-40 minutes):

- Instruct the students to pair up or form small groups for the game.
- Each student or group will take turns asking yes-or-no questions to guess the animal their opponent has selected.
- They can use the question prompt cards provided or come up with their own questions related to animal classification (e.g., "Do you have 2 legs?", "Do you eat both meat and plants?", etc.).
- The opponent can only respond with "Yes" or "No."
- Encourage students to use their knowledge of animal characteristics and classification to narrow down the possibilities.

Discussion and Conclusion (5 minutes):

- Gather the students back as a whole group.
- Ask a few volunteers to share their experiences during the game and the types of questions that were helpful in identifying the animals.
- Recap the main concepts of animal classification and the importance of asking relevant questions to narrow down options.

Assessment:

Assess the students' understanding of animal classification by observing their participation during the game, their ability to ask relevant questions, and their use of animal characteristics to make informed guesses.

Pairs With:

- Ecosystem Web Game (Gr. 3-6)