

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Types of Animals (Sort)

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 6 **Unit Title:** Animal Planet

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1CS5b.

S1L1d.

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Types of animals (amphibians, arthropods, birds, fish, mammals, and reptiles)

Learning Activity (description in steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters):

Students will determine whether or not an animal belongs to a certain group (types under content).

Details:

This lesson is designed for use with a Smartboard and best taught after a more in depth lesson about the different types of animals (amphibians, arthropods, birds, fish, mammals, and reptiles) and what characteristics each group possesses. Before starting this lesson, I questioned the class to see what they remembered about each type of animal. I created a powerpoint with a slide for each type of animal with the most defining characteristics listed at the top. Each slide was divided into two sides: a “yes” side and a “no side”. At the bottom of the slide was a group of pictures, some of which fit the characteristics of that animal type, some that did not (I did three of each; you can do more or less depending on your students). The students would then take turns choosing one picture and deciding whether or not that animal belonged in that group or not. After all the pictures on one slide were sorted, the students as a whole would decide if all the pictures were placed correctly; if not, I would ask them why. After finishing all the slides, I had the students choose their

favorite animal, draw a picture of it, tell me what type of animal it was, and write one sentence telling me why it was that type of animal.

Materials Needed (type and quantity):

Smartboard; Powerpoint of animal types sort; paper, pencil for each student, and crayons

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Have a pre-decided order for the students to take turns so the confusion is at a minimum. Students should be instructed to wait patiently while other children are sorting or they will risk losing their own turn. If I were to do this lesson again, I would try to choose animals that are obviously that type of animal or not. For example, one of the pictures I chose for the fish slide was a jellyfish (which ironically is not a fish!) and that was confusing for the students. Try not to give the students any hints while they sort; if all animals are not correctly sorted at the end of a slide, try to question the students to get the right answer instead of just telling them what is right. No safety concerns other than students running to and from the Smartboard.

Sources/References:

None