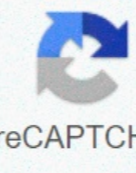


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Animals and their young ks1

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Sound lesson outline © v2vtraining.co.uk Watch the water cycle in action and add your own labels. © v2vtraining.co.uk Label words are simply dragged and dropped into the correct place in the diagram. When all words have been placed the user clicks on the check button to get feedback on their selection. Bodyparts lesson outline © v2vtraining.co.uk Label words are simply dragged and dropped into the correct place in the picture. When all words have been placed the user clicks on the check button to get feedback on their selection. Materials1 lesson outline © v2vtraining.co.uk The plant parts labelling application is a simple to use science vocabulary exercise. Label words are simply dragged and dropped into the correct place in the diagram. Growing Plants lesson outline © v2vtraining.co.uk Choose a map and add labels to make your own forecast. Mother Lion & Cub All kids love babies—although big kids might not want to admit it. This makes ooohing and aahing over leggy lambs or tiny tadpoles and other baby animals a perfect segue into several related science topics, including life cycles, survival strategies, and inherited traits. Since babies really need no further introduction, we'll jump right into the activities! Life Cycles All living things on earth have one thing in common—a life cycle that starts with birth, continues with growth and then reproduction, and ends with death. What I like about this topic is that it can be accessed by very young children, who might explore very simple life cycles like puppies and ladybugs, but it can be made very challenging for older students, who can explore the unusual life cycles of creatures like cicada and jellyfish. Activity: Baby Matching You will need: • Photo cards of animal babies and parents, enough for each student in your class to have one card (if you have an odd number of students, count yourself too!) OR • Photo cards of life cycle stages (ranging from young/adult for most vertebrates to egg/larvae/pupa/adult for many insects). Instructions: 1. Mix up the cards. 2. Pass out the cards, one per student. 3. Have students move about the room until they locate their match(es). You might want to designate an area for students to go after they have located their matching card(s). 4. Have students share their sets, giving their classmates an overview of that animal's life cycle. Note: Tailor these to your audience—easy matches for young students, harder ones for older students. See links at the end of the article for image resources. Activity: Life Cycle Posters Assign each student an animal or have them choose. Invite them to create a poster showing the life cycle of that creature. Younger kids can tackle the classics, like frogs and ladybugs. Have older students challenge themselves a bit and choose a less common animal. Survival Strategies Among animals, there are widely ranging levels of parental care, from fretting over them for 18+ years before launching them into the world to laying eggs and leaving young to fend for themselves. Some animal parents have unusual or extraordinary strategies for protecting their young. For example, Arowana (fish) fathers are mouth brooders. They protect their young from predators by holding them in their mouths. Baby animals also have ways to signal their needs to their parents. Many baby birds have bright spots in their mouths that scream "place food here" to the parent. Some baby animals have to be scrappier than others to survive. Baby komodo dragons climb trees to avoid predators that may include their own parents! Activity: Protective Parents, Tough Babies Discuss the ways that humans protect and care for their young and the signals human babies/children use to communicate their needs to their parents. Have students choose either an amazing protective parent or a surprising tough baby and share about it in a short report, a poster, or a presentation to the class. You might want to have a list of possible choices to direct students to some of the more interesting creatures. Inherited Traits Most babies are not exact copies of their parents, which means they have some differences, however slight. This conversation can begin at the earliest elementary levels with conversations about the fact that children do not look exactly like their parents or that the new kittens in the house don't look like their mom or dad. By the middle of elementary school, students can begin to tackle more challenging topics, like dominant and recessive genes. Activity: "Do I Look Like Mom & Dad?" You will need: • Photos of animal parents and their young Instructions: 1. Have students study the pictures of animal babies and their parents. 2. Ask "what is different about the babies and the parents?" 3. Extend the exercise by discussing how students look the same and different from their parents/guardians. (Be sensitive to kids who don't live with biological parents.) Note: You could pair this activity with the Baby Matching activity. The focus of this activity is inherited traits, not stages in a life cycle, so limit the photo selection to young that do look like their parents, just not exactly alike (e.g., the young are smaller, have different markings, have slightly different features, etc.). Online Resources for Life Cycles Activities • Baby Animals Preschool Pack, a free resource from homeschool blogger 1 + 1 + 1 = 1 you can use to make animal babies/parents cards. o • "Color the Animal Life Cycles" worksheets, from education.com (This site requires you to sign up, but it's free.) o Online Resources for Survival Strategies Activities • "Father's Day Pictures: 'Best' Animal Dads," from National Geographic o Online Resources for Inherited Traits Activities • "Genetics Beginner," an activity for Grades 3-4 from Scientist Teacher Education Partnership Program o • "An Inventory of My Traits," a classroom activity for Grades 5-7 from University of Utah's Genetic Science Learning Center o The Variety of Life Nicola Davies & Lorna Scobie This is a large and beautifully illustrated compendium celebrating the diversity of life on our planet. Each double page spread features a different type of animal, such as penguins or bears, and after an introductory paragraph presents a variety of different species with watercolour illustrations and interesting facts. This is an essential classroom book for the topic of animal variation. Buy on Amazon The White Giraffe Lauren St John This is the first novel in Lauren St John's popular series. When a young English girl called Martine moves to live with her grandmother on a South African game reserve, she finds herself feeling lonely and isolated. One night she sees a mysterious silver giraffe and as she begins to befriend it, a thrilling mystery begins to unravel. Also features on: Africa topic Recommended Books for Year 5 Buy on Amazon Creature Features Natasha Durlay A bold and colourful non-fiction book with a high visual appeal. This non-fiction text emphasises both the amazing diversity and commonality between different species of animals. Each double-page spread displays animals united by a common feature, from horns to long necks to big ears. A great way to get children thinking about adaptation and variation in the animal kingdom. Buy on Amazon How to Help a Hedgehog and Protect a Polar Bear Jess French & Angela Keoghan This is full to the brim with simple ideas to help endangered animals and make the world a better place. The book begins with a guide to the different types of habitats that can be found before taking each individual one and detailing not only what wildlife lives there (with fantastic facts and size and weight keys to make it even easier) and ways we can help. The illustrations are bold, beautiful and give a high-quality finish. Perfect for all ages from 5 year olds to 105 years old, this is one not just for school but a perfect home addition as well. Also features on: Reading for pleasure blog Buy on Amazon Disappearing Acts: A Search-and-Find Book of Endangered Animals Isabella Bunnell This is an engaging way for children to think about the topic of animals becoming endangered. Each page features a different habitat and readers are challenged to search through the beautiful illustrations to find the endangered animals listed at the side. Accompanying the illustrations there is information about each endangered species. Buy on Amazon When the Mountains Roared Jess Butterworth The story follows Ruby, a twelve-year-old girl animal lover who moves with her family from their Australian home to a remote mountain village in India to run a hotel. Unimpressed when she arrives in her new home, Ruby does manage to find some things to like about the foreign setting. Jess Butterworth's descriptions of the mountain landscape are beautiful and evocative as nature-lover Ruby takes in the new smells, colours and wildlife of the Himalayan habitat. Ruby sets out on a mission to protect the few remaining leopards there from the threat of poachers. This is an atmospheric and enticing story that explores an important theme about preservation and it will appeal to readers in Years 4-6. Also features on: Reading for Pleasure Blog Buy on Amazon Book of Bones: 10 Record-Breaking Animals Gabrielle Balkan & Sam Brewster Each page presents a different skeleton and readers are given clues to try and guess which animal it belongs to. Engaging and informative, this text helps readers make links between the anatomy of different creatures and their behaviour. Buy on Amazon A Collection of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories Rudyard Kipling & Various Illustrators Eight of Rudyard Kipling's classic animal-themed Just So Stories are presented for a young audience in this illustrated collection, suitable for KS2. The stories include How the Whale Got His Throat, How The Camel Got His Hump and How The Rhinoceros Got His Skin. Buy on Amazon Life-Sized Animal Tracks John Townsend This fun information texts offers a different way in to learning about animals by focussing on the prints and tracks animals leave behind. Each page features a different animal's paw, foot- or hoof print, with a diagram showing its actual size and shape and plenty of accessible and interesting facts about each creature. Buy on Amazon The Hunter Paul Geraghty Filled with detailed artwork portraying different African animals in their natural environment, this picture book tells the story of a girl called Jamina who likes to play at pretending to be a hunter. One day she discovers an elephant in distress and sees first hand the devastating effect on the natural world caused by poachers. This is a beautifully illustrated picture book with a thought-provoking message at its heart. Buy on Amazon Habitats (Science Skills Sorted!) Anna Claybourne This non-fiction text about habitats places an emphasis on working scientifically in order to explore the topic of habitats and ecosystems. Each topic is presented through a series of hands-on experiments following the ATOM method (ask, test, observe, measure), such as testing how effectively blubber protects bodies from cold and investigating how worms mix up the soil to improve their habitats. We highly recommend this series for KS2 classrooms, with other books in the series covering Rocks & Fossils, Evolution and Life Cycles (click to view on Amazon). Buy on Amazon A First Book of Nature Nicola Davies & Mark Heard This book has a dreamteam of components: Nicola Davies, Mark Heard, poetry and nature. Together they create something that belongs in multiple genres. It's a poetry book, an art book - Heard's woodblock prints are one with the words - and an information book. The book guides you through the seasons, and the poems about British wildlife, weather and trees depict how special each one is, while gently informing. In my opinion, an essential addition to any library or classroom, and a fine multi-topic book for any age group. (Recommended by Roy James (@royjamesmosh), Librarian & Reader with KS2). Also features on: favourite non-fiction texts Buy on Amazon The Animals of Farthing Wood Colin Dann This animal adventure story has become a children's literary classic. The animals living in Farthing Wood come under threat when bulldozers come to destroy their natural habitat. They must work together to survive the dangerous journey to a nature reserve, making friends and enemies along the way. A good text to support the topics of food chains and habitats. Buy on Amazon Mad About Monkeys Owen Davey A high-quality non-fiction text that explores the topic of monkeys in a stylish and visually appealing way. Learn all about these creatures, with topics including habitats, diet, classification and behaviour. You may also like the other books in the series, Crazy About Cats (available here), Smart About Sharks (available here) and Bonkers About Beeties (available here). Buy on Amazon Actual Size Steve Jenkins A very popular choice in the classroom, this book allows readers to gain a sense of the relative sizes of different animals (or the parts of them that fit on the page at least!). Compare your hand to a gorilla's or figure out how many times your eye would fit inside one of a giant squid's eyes. Buy on Amazon Sky Dancer Gill Lewis This novel deals with the pressing issue of decreasing numbers of hen harriers. This is largely due to the 'management' of estates and moors to preserve the numbers of grouse for the shooting season. Lewis deals with the issue fairly, without preaching, and both sides of the argument have convincing vehicles in the believable characters of the village of Hartstone. The novel provides plenty of opportunities for pupils to engage with the ongoing UK debate and to research the passions of both sides. Sky Dancer, as you might expect from one of the UK's leading novelists, is a confident and convincingly told story - with plenty for classes to admire beyond the key storyline. The writing has a classic feel with authentic and gritty characters with whom we can easily empathise. Ultimately Lewis has created a story about finding yourself, your voice and having the courage to speak out. (Recommended by Simon Fisher (@bookwormswales), Primary Teacher and book blogger at FamilyBookworms.wales) Also features on: Environmental Sustainability Buy on Amazon Wild Animals of the South Dieter Braun This is a stunning compendium of different animals living the in the Southern Hemisphere, including sloths, jaguars, macaws and gorillas. The book is organised by continent and each double-page spread covers a different animal and includes a beautiful illustration along with a short paragraph of informative text. This is a highly appealing book that is perfect for finding out about different animals and comparing them with other creatures from different global habitats. You may also like the companion book Wild Animals of the North (available here). 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Animals include blue wildebeests, humpback whales, Christmas Island red crabs, wandering albatrosses and ruby-throated hummingbirds. Buy on Amazon The Great Kapok Tree Lynne Cherry This is a colourful and engaging picture book that captures the spirit of the rainforest through its beautifully detailed illustrations. It has a simple story line that is accessible to less confident readers but a strong message about deforestation and enough depth to captivate older readers too. Check out the accompanying unit of work from KS2History. Buy on Amazon The Big Book of Beasts Yuval Zommer This award-winning book showcases wild and wonderful beasts, from tigers and brown bears to binturongs and Ice Age beasts. Hugely popular in primary classrooms due to its vibrant, appealing illustrations and accessible and interesting style of text, this informative compendium is the kind of non-fiction that children like to come back to again and again. You may also like the other books in the series, The Big Book of Bugs (available here) and The Big Book of the Blue (available here). Buy on Amazon The Akimbo Adventures Alexander McCall Smith This book contains three stories about nature at its most wild and thrilling. Akimbo lives on the edge of an African game reserve where he helps his father to protect the animals in their natural habitat. In these adventures he saves elephants from sneaky poachers, rescues a trapped lion cub and saves a man from the jaws of a crocodile. Highly recommended for KS2. Buy on Amazon Wild Ideas Elin Kelsey and Soyeon Kim We love this engaging non-fiction text all about the way in which animals use problem-solving to overcome everyday challenges. In this book readers will look at how dung beetles use the stars to map their journeys, how humpback whales create nets of bubbles to capture their next fishy meal and how mimic octopuses disguise themselves in the most creative of ways. The collage-style illustrations draw the reader into the incredible world of nature while the short, vocabulary-rich text is perfect for inspiring deeper thinking about what we can learn from nature's problem-solvers and would be a great stimulus for a writing project. Buy on Amazon Toad Rage Morris Gleitzman This is a really funny book that makes a popular choice to read aloud in KS2. Limpy the toad knows that human beings don't think highly of toads, especially when they drive their enormous cars over them. Limpy sets about on a mission to save his family and help humans to see that toads are not so bad after all. Buy on Amazon World's Deadliest Animals Matt Roper Ideal for guided reading, this information text will shock and amaze readers as it details some of the world's most dangerous animals, from silent killers to raging beasts. Buy on Amazon Red Alert! Catherine Barr & Anne Wilson An engaging and colourful book looking at different endangered species. The information on each page draws attention to the beauty and uniqueness of each creature and highlights the way in which each one is in danger. There are also useful suggestions of ways to help each endangered creature

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