

All About Animals: Mammals, Revised

Synopsis

Through clear narration, catchy songs, and colorful, detailed film footage we learn about the characteristics of mammals (hair or fur, teeth, a backbone, etc.), as the vocabulary words used to describe them appear on the screen. We observe how mammals move, protect themselves and care for their young, as well as mammals' habitats (land, trees, water). How young mammals are born and cared for is emphasized. Through lively pictures, we learn that people are mammals, too. Narration and song reinforce each other as the concepts are reviewed and the vocabulary words are repeated. Pictures of many different species – from dogs to llamas to hippopotami show us how wide and varied a group mammals are.

Questions to ask before viewing

1. Who fixes your hair? Why do you need to get your hair cut?
2. Can you name any animals that have hair or fur? Where do they live?
3. What are some of the things your parents do to take care of you? What do animal parents do to take care of their babies?

4. Where is your backbone? Why do we have backbones? Can you name some animals that have backbones?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. What do all mammals have on their skin? (fur or hair)
2. Where do most mammals live? (on land) Where else can mammals live? (in trees, in the water)
3. How do they breathe? (with their lungs) How do land mammals move around? (on their legs and feet)
4. Name some of the mammals you saw in the film. (hippopotami, horses, sheep, skunk, llamas, goats, bears, dogs, people etc.)
5. What is different about the way mammals are born from the way birds and fish are born? (Fish and birds hatch from eggs outside the mother's body. Mammals live inside the mother's body as they develop and until they are ready to be born.)
6. How are baby mammals different from baby fish? (Baby mammals need care from their parents.)
7. If possible, the teacher may bring in a live mammal (puppy, kitten, gerbil, etc.) for the students to see. Have students point out the characteristics of mammals. Introduce, demonstrate and practice "observation."

8. The students may draw pictures of or make up and act out stories about specific mammals using vocabulary words from the program. They may invent imaginary mammals with the characteristics they have learned about.
9. The teacher may write each of the vocabulary words on cards or slips of paper to put into a bowl or basket (hair, fur, legs, teeth, lungs, ears, feet, arms, stand). The students will take out a word and use it in a sentence (OR find a rhyme for it, or a word that begins or ends with the same sound, etc.).
10. Encourage students to observe independently. Where and what kind of mammals might you find near where you live? (Answers will vary.)

Annotation

Through clear narration, catchy songs, and colorful, detailed film footage we learn about the characteristics of mammals as the vocabulary words used to describe them appear on the screen. We observe many species of mammals – how they move, how they protect themselves, how young mammals are born, and how adult mammals look after their offspring. We learn that people are mammals, too. Narration and song reinforce each other as the concepts are reviewed and the vocabulary words are repeated.

Length

10 Minutes

Subject Areas

Science, Language Arts

Audience Level

Grades K-3

Catalog Number

#2884-EN-VID

Related titles in the AIMS collection

#2885-EN-VID Amphibians

#2888-EN-VID Birds

#2887-EN-VID Fish

#2886-EN-VID Reptiles

#2546-EN-VID Nina's Strange Adventure

#2548-EN-VID A Jungle for Joey



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Discussion Guide

All About Animals: Mammals, Revised

Objectives

- To identify the unique characteristics of mammals as a class within the animal kingdom
- To observe and describe similarities and differences between mammals and other types of animals
- To connect the spelling of vocabulary words with their pronunciation and meaning
- To use the vocabulary words in concrete ways.

