



PME Cultural Subjects

5



Cultural Subjects

ZOOLOGY



NATURE TABLE

Materials:

- A table.
- A magnifying glass/hand lens kept permanently on the table.
- Objects which are or have been a part of our living world, i.e., shells, pine cones, feathers, nests, fossil, bark, sheep's wool, etc.

Objectives:

- To stimulate an interest in nature in the children.
- To provide for and promote exploration of specimens found in our living world.

Presentation:

- Invite a small group of children to the nature table.
- Introduce the objects to the children one at a time.
- Show the children how to hold the objects carefully when they are examining them.
- Provide simple and interesting information about each item. We have a magnifying glass to assist us.
- Only a few items are displayed on the nature table at any one time. They should be changed frequently to maintain the children's interest.

Exercise 1: Encourage the children to bring in their own objects for display. Include labels for the children who are reading.

Age: 2+ years

CLASSIFIED NOMENCLATURE CARDS (small group presentation)

Material:

- Sets of classified cards for each class of vertebrate animals with the name written on the back of the card. The classification would be varied, i.e., Wild Animals, Domestic Animals, Birds, Herbivores, Carnivores, etc.
- Corresponding sets of reading cards.

Objectives:

- To teach vocabulary
- To prepare for subsequent classification.

Presentation:

- These cards are presented in the same way as other classified cards: establish the ones which are known and give a three period lesson for those which need to be learned.
- Begin with animals the children have had experience with, i.e., domestic animals, zoo animals, farm animals, etc. Always provide a little information regarding each animal. Draw attention to features which will assist later classification, i.e., hair on the mammal, feathers on the bird, sharp teeth of the carnivore, etc.
- The use of classified nomenclature cards can extend for a long time within the classroom, as the classifications can become more detailed and require more knowledge.

Exercise 1: When the children are reading, introduce the printed labels.

Age: 2+ years

CARD STORY LESSONS (small group presentation)

Material:

Mounted pictures showing facets of an animal's life history with information printed on the back.

Objectives: To introduce the concept of a life cycle.

Presentation:

- Refer to the Language Manual for the presentation of a card story.
- Follow the interest of the children and build upon their experiences.
- When appropriate introduce the idea that life occurs in a series of events, a cycle.
- Begin with a simple life cycle, one which may be familiar to the children, i.e. egg, chick, and hen.
- Show change as a part of life's growth and development.

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Exercise 1: Encourage the children to draw and write stories concerning animals. Eventually introduce the notion of metamorphosis. Keep a good selection of books on animals in the classroom.

Age: 3+ years

ANIMALS OF THE WORLD (small group presentation)



Material:

- Three-dimensional animal models in a basket
- Hemisphere map or Jigsaw puzzle map of the world

Objectives:

- To introduce the child to a wide variety of animals and learn the appropriate names.
- To relate animals to the continents on which they live.
- To stimulate interest in animals and ecology.

Presentation:

- Invite a small group of children to join you at a mat.
- Bring the basket of animals to the mat. Discover which animals the children can identify.
- For the remaining animals, give a three period lesson naming the animals. Use three or four animals at a time.
- Give a little information about each animal which interrelates zoology and geography, and also animals and man. Information should concern the animal's habitat, continents where they are found, and anything special regarding the animal i.e., penguins do not fly.
- Continue according to the interest of the children.
- Replace materials.

Exercise 1: Encourage the children to make their own models from clay or play dough and draw pictures of the animals.

Age: 3+ years

CLASSES OF ANIMALS FOLDER (small group presentation)

Amphibian – Red-Eyed Tree Frog



Mammal – Fresh Water Hippopotamus



Mollusc - Snail



Pisces – Clown Fish



Reptile – Giant Tortoise



Material:

- A folder or box divided to hold pictures of the five classes of vertebrates. These are mounted on cards and laminated.
- The name of the animal and some relevant information is printed on the back for story writing and reading and are coded by class (fish-green, amphibian-purple, reptiles- brown, mollusc- grey, bird-blue and mammal-red).

Presentation:

- Bring the folder to a mat, inviting a small group of children to join you.
- Begin with mammals, selecting an animal which the children know. Encourage them to talk about their experience of the particular animal.
- Repeat for a few more pictures of mammals.
- Encourage discussion which is drawn from the children's observations. Use the classification name "mammal" and frequently refer to the general characteristics.
- At some point introduce the notion of reproduction. Continue according to the interest of the child.

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Exercise 1: In the same manner introduce fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Encourage the children to compare and contrast two classes of vertebrates, then three, four and finally all five.

Age: 4+ years

ANIMAL SORTING GAME (small group presentation)

Material:

- Set of pictures of the five animal classes and
- a matching box for each for sorting. Cards are coded on the back for control.

Objectives:

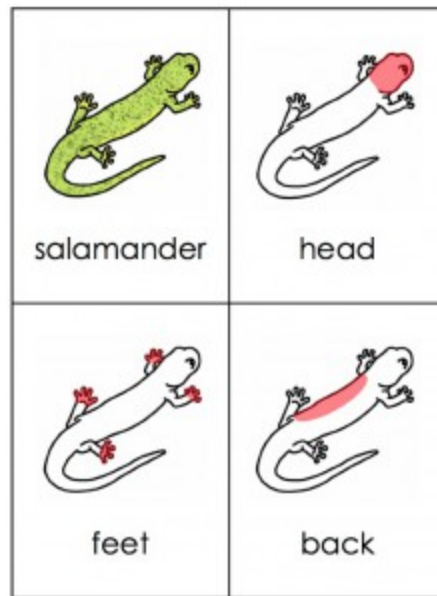
To show the child how to sort the vertebral animals by their zoological classification.

Presentation:

- Bring the pictures and boxes to a mat, inviting a small group of children to join you.
- The pictures are mixed in one box and the other five empty boxes are set out across the top of the mat with the names of each class visible. Note, the boxes may be colour coded for the children who are not yet reading.
- The children sort through the pictures and place the animals in their appropriate boxes according to classification.
- The children can check their work by looking at the colour-code on the back of the cards. (Cards may also be sorted into columns.)

Age: 4+ years

THE PARTS OF THE ANIMAL AND THEIR DEFINITIONS (small group presentation)



Material:

- A set of cards showing the parts of the body of each vertebrate class. The part is coloured red in each case.
- Control booklet, one set of cards with the whole definition and the key word outlined in red.
- One set of cards with the key word cut out.
- One set of large pictures, one blank, one with labels (control) for each vertebrate class and one invertebrate class.
- One set of labels for each blank picture.

Objectives:

To draw attention to the parts of the main vertebrates.

Presentation:

- After the children have had a good deal of experience with the five classes of animals, you may introduce the parts of the animals.
- Again, begin with the mammal since it is the most familiar. Present the cards in the same manner as other classified cards.
- Establish the language which is known and give a three period lesson for the language to be learned.
- Encourage the children to relate the parts of the animal to their own bodies.
- At the reading stage, you may introduce the printed labels, definition booklets and definition cards in the same manner as the Land and Water Definitions.

Exercise 1: The children may work with the other animal classes. Encourage the children to make their own diagrams and label them, if appropriate.

Exercise 2: Introduce the large pictures. Present any new terminology. The child can read the labels and match them to the appropriate parts. The child can check his work with the control charts. Introduce the invertebrate example. Review what an invertebrate is and discuss examples. Present the new terminology.

Exercise 3 Introduce jigsaw puzzles of parts of an animal and let the children work with these. For readers let them use labels placing them on the appropriate parts.

Parts of a horse

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Age: 4+ years

This is simply a short overview you can do so much more, the animal kingdom is vast in scope.