

The Animal World

Source: <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/animalColorsShapes>

Grade:

Kindergarten to third grade (5- to 8-year-olds).

Objectives and Purpose:

- Understand that animals come in different colors and shapes.
- Describe the purpose of color in the animal world.
- Use different colors and shapes to create pictures of animals.

Resources and Materials:

- Crayons
- White construction paper (1 sheet per student)
- Print images of different animals
- Different-colored construction paper cut into different-sized triangles, circles, squares, and rhomboids
- Glue

Activities and Procedures:

- After reading a book about animals, ask students to share examples of shapes they have seen. What body part of most animals is circular? What animals have triangles?
- Talk about the children's favorite animals. What colors can be found on them? Discuss some of the purposes of color in the animal world. Why are the feathers on most male birds brightly colored, while female birds have gray or brown feathers? How do some animals use color to stay hidden?
- Share print images of animals. Talk about the different colors and shapes of these animals. Tell students that they are going to create pictures of animals with different shapes. They will also draw a picture of the animal's habitat.
- Demonstrate using a print image as an example. Talk about the animal. In what kind of environment would you expect to find this animal? Have students describe where this animal might live. Does it live in a desert or a forest?
- Next, talk about the different shapes students might see on the animal. What shape are its ears? What shape is its body?
- Use different-sized construction paper shapes to create the animal. Arrange the shapes on the background habitat, being sure to tell students that you will not use glue until it looks the way you want it to. Finally, glue the shapes on the background habitat. Demonstrate using crayons to make additional lines that should appear (such as whiskers) on the animal.
- Making sure that students understand what they are supposed to do, give them print images of animals, and tell them to choose one to copy for their picture. Have them first draw the background habitat and then use the paper shapes to make their animal. Check student work before allowing them to glue their animal shapes to the background.
- Once students have finished their pictures, ask volunteers to share them. Talk about the shapes they used. Discuss the colors of the animals. Ask about the animals' habitats. Does the color of the animal help it blend into its habitat? Display the finished pictures in the classroom.

Tying It All Together:

This activity promotes creativity, vocabulary growth, and understanding of story sequencing. Not only is this activity cognitively stimulating; it also encourages language development. It allows children to interact with others socially while having fun in the process of learning about animals in their environment. The important thing is for children to use their imagination and have fun drawing and playing with toy animals.

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