

Animal Research Project

This animal research project and its integrated-thematic approach addresses a multi-modal approach with respect for all learning styles and levels. It promotes a high standard of academic achievement as well as familiarizes the student with presenting information to an audience. Individual student's needs are met in order to successfully complete the project. Positive self-esteem often promotes future successful academic and social experiences. This, in turn, prepares the students to become lifelong learners. Parent participation is extremely important as it reinforces and models life-long learning, teamwork, and community spirit.

Curriculum/State Standard

NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards:
 Science 5.2, 5.6, 5.7;
 Visual & Performing Arts 1.3;
 Language Arts 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5;
 Cross Content #2 & #3

Overview

Students immerse themselves in exploring and discovering various channels useful in seeking factual information as they strive to become knowledgeable about all animals but especially their chosen research topic. Students learn each step of the writing process as they gather and organize facts, write a rough draft, edit and revise, rewrite, and type a final copy of their animal research paper, which is shared with an audience of peers. Students and parents work together during the culminating activity called "Animal Night," creating a clay animal and a habitat.

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GRADE LEVEL



ARTS



LANGUAGE



MATH

Misc

MISCELLANEOUS



SCIENCE



HISTORY



SOCIAL STUDIES

8

WEEKS

\$250

TOTAL BUDGET



THIS WINNING LESSON PLAN WAS SUBMITTED BY:

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"Animal Research" project continued...

Objectives

- The student will learn characteristics of animals and their habitats.
- The student will discover how animals eat, move and communicate.
- The student will explore ways animals are classified.
- The student will learn the process for completing a research paper.
- The student will present an oral report with a visual display.

Materials

Varied selection of science related animal books, modeling clay, paint, fabric crayons, wiggle eyes, feathers, poster board, cardboard craft trays, t-shirts, animal munchies, and recycled junk

Readiness Activity

Students brainstorm and read about animals and their habitats. Then they choose an animal and complete a web to organize for the research report.

Strategies/Activities

Animal facts are gathered by reading various materials and texts, participating in literature activities, visiting Web sites, viewing and listening to computer CD-ROM programs, visiting the library to utilize reference materials, personal interviews, and field trips.

Students take notes, make lists, organize, sort, and analyze information into webs and other graphic organizers as they gather facts and prepare to write an animal research paper.

Students learn characteristics of animals and their habitats, discover how animals eat, move, communicate, and are classified as they gather information and prepare a rough draft of at least six sentences or one paragraph for their research paper.

Editing conferences with the classroom teacher help the students to improve or refine their report as needed in order that the end result is an interesting, informative report to share with an audience of peers.

Reports are then typed on a computer using a word processing program, and animal pictures are printed from a CD ROM encyclopedia.

Students created "Animal Night T-Shirt" with the assistance of our "Artist in Residence." Shirts are silk-screened with the "Animal Night" logo and then personalized with animal illustrations by each student using fabric crayons.

Each student arranges his/her report and animal picture on a page for a "First Grade Animal Research" class book. Books are copied and bound for each family.

When all reports and shirts are complete, the students and parents are invited back to school for an evening called "Animal Night." They work together to create a three-dimensional display consisting of a clay animals and a habitat made from recycled junk and art materials.

Finally, each student presents an oral report and visual display to the class. Each student is presented with a copy of the "First Grade Animal Research" class book.

Culminating Activity

When all reports are complete, the students and parents are invited back to school for an evening called "Animal Night." They work together to create a three-dimensional display consisting of a clay animal and a habitat made from recycled junk and art materials. "Animal Snacks" are served.

Evaluation

The criteria included in the teacher rubric used for this project evaluates the following: the quality of the written report; knowledge of topic through oral presentation, discussion, and questioning; appropriateness of the visual display (animal and habitat). Students are asked to offer positive comments about each project orally or by completing a frame such as, What I liked best about your project was_____ .