

Little Kids First Big Book of Animals

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

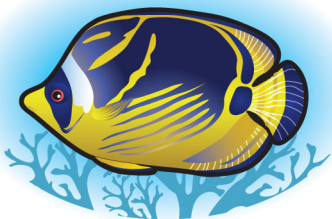
SCIENCE, COMMUNICATION FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

Materials: pictures of forest animals, tape

Let students find out which friend of the forest they represent! Tape a picture of a different forest animal on each student's back (without letting that student see). Each student must ask yes or no questions to figure out the type of animal. Encourage students to take notes if needed to help organize the information they gather. (This can be performed as a whole group, small group, or partner activity.)

TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE OCEANS OF SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Compare the marine animals from the text with animals from popular kids' movies, like *Finding Nemo*, *Dolphin Tales*, etc. How are the animals in the movies like those in the book? How are they different? Make a comparison chart on the board.



Expand student background knowledge about octopuses by watching: video.nationalgeographic.com/video/kids/animals-pets-kids/wild-detectives-kids/wd-ep1-octopus

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, MATH DESERT ANIMAL DESIGN CHALLENGE

Materials: scrap materials (paper, bits of cloth, paper towel tubes, brads, paper clips, etc.), scissors, glue

Put students in small groups. Have each group choose a desert animal.

Challenge: Build a model of the animal. Make sure that your animal can be identified by distinguishing characteristics. Make sure a part of it can move. Draw or make a desert habitat for your animal.

ART, SCIENCE POLAR PAINTING

Materials: small paper cups, water, craft stick, foil, powdered tempera paint, paper plates

Pre-activity preparation: Fill cups with about 1.5" of water. Cover with foil; poke a craft stick through the foil like a popsicle stick. Freeze overnight.

Activity: Give each student a plate with 2 different colors of powdered paint. Have students peel their cups from around their "ice bergs." Have them "paint" by moving the ice berg around the paper plate with the craft stick. Observe what's happening to the ice. What colors are being made? How long does it take for the ice to melt?

MATH, TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE AFRICAN GRASSLAND ATHLETES

The grasslands in Africa are home to many speedy animals. Pick 3 and put them in an imaginary race! Use the text and other resources to find their average speeds to see who would win. Who would come in 2nd and 3rd? Show your findings with a poster, model, short story, or comic strip.



WRITING, VOCABULARY NON-FICTION THINK-TAC-TOE

(For older or advanced students.) Give the kids a little challenge and choice with the attached think-tac-toe activity sheet. Each column of activities includes tiered choices for student differentiation. You decide how many squares students complete!



NON-FICTION THINK-TAC-TOE

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

- ◆ Individual students can choose an activity to complete.
- ◆ Student pairs or cooperative groups can work together on a choice of their own.
- ◆ Educator can assign an activity for an individual, pairs, or groups.

<p>WHO KNEW?</p> <p>From the book, choose 4 words that are new to you. Divide your paper into 4 squares. In each square, write the word, its definition, how you would define it, and a sentence using it. You may also want to draw a picture to help you remember.</p>	<p>NO MORE CAPTIONS</p> <p>Publishers have decided that it costs too much to print captions! Write a persuasive letter to book publishers telling them why captions are important. Be sure to give reasons or examples to support your argument!</p>	<p>INDEX IT!</p> <p>Create an <i>index page</i> for a topic that interests you. If you wrote a book on that topic, what main ideas would you include? (If I picked ice cream as my topic, my index might include: cones, flavors, history, toppings.) Think of at least 15 words for your index—remember to put them in alphabetical order!</p>
<p>FIND IT AND FOLD IT!</p> <p>Choose 4 words from the book. Fold your paper in half hot dog style. Use scissors to cut 3 slits on one side so you have 4 “flaps.” Write each word on the outside of a flap. Under the flap, write the word’s definition and a sentence. Draw a picture of each word on the back of the paper.</p>	<p>PERSUADE A PEER</p> <p>We have a new student who is having trouble picking out non-fiction books to read. Write a letter to that student explaining how to use the title, cover, and table of contents to tell what a book will be about.</p>	<p>IF YOU KNOW IT, BE A POET!</p> <p>Pick a text feature from the book. Write an <i>acrostic poem</i> to describe that feature and how it helps you understand what you read.</p> <p>Example: Make sense Arrange things Put things in context Show me where I am</p>
<p>CUBE TOSS</p> <p>Choose 6 words from the glossary to write on a blank cube. (Cube pattern: www.mathisfun.com/geometry/cube-model.html.) With a partner, take turns rolling the cube. For each word you roll: say it, define it, and use it in a sentence.</p>	<p>ORGANIZE YOUR FINDINGS</p> <p>Make 3 columns on your paper. Fill in each with the following information from the book: Column 1: 3 subjects you want to learn more about. Column 2: The page #'s where you can find the information. Column 3: Something you learned about each subject.</p>	<p>COMPARE IT!</p> <p>Use a Venn Diagram to compare the <i>table of contents</i> to the <i>index</i> of a non-fiction text. Which topics are in the index only, which are in the table of contents, and which are in both?</p>

