



Curriculum Web

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INTRODUCTION TO ANIMALS

In this curriculum unit, children will learn more about animals through activities such as creative arts and creative play, as well as using literature. They will explore the elements of science and the arts.

Animals make up a large part of the world. Through this unit, children will engage in hands-on activities through the use of materials and resources made available. The following sub themes that make up this curriculum are land/air/water, lifecycle, habitats, farm animals, and imaginary animals.



SUBTHEME 1: LAND/AIR/WATER

Activities

Sensory Observations: Children will learn about the different animal body coverings through observation using magnifying glasses (Feathers, wool, scales)

Making Connections: Using animal figures, children will observe them all to make connections and find ways to group animals. Write it down (color, type of animal, size)

Mark Making: Using the bottom of various animal figures to make a mark (paw/claw prints)

Book:

The Animals Would Not Sleep, Sara Levine



SUBTHEME 2: LIFE CYCLE

Activities

Ladybug Play Dough: Using image reference of a ladybug's life cycle, children will use play dough to make models of the ladybug in each stage of its lifecycle

Butterfly Movement: Students will learn about the process of a butterfly life cycle through movement using various yoga poses. Students can work in pairs to help each other out.

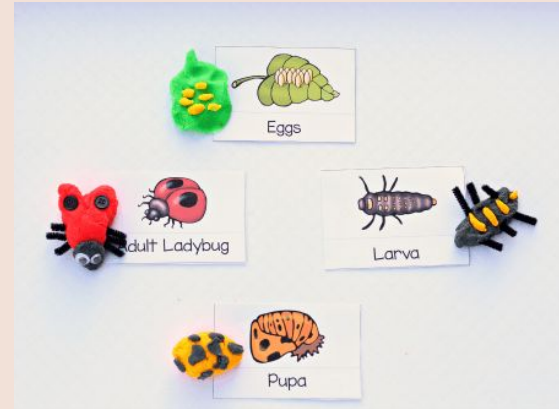
Pipe Cleaner Butterfly: Using colorful pipe cleaners, children will use them to make their own caterpillars and butterflies.

Books:

A Ladybug's Life, John Himmelman

Being Frog, April Sayre

Cows and Their Calves, Margaret Hall



SUBTHEME 3: HABITATS

Activities

Zoo Activity: Using a variety of animal figures made by the children, they will use them to add into when they create their own zoo.

Sensory Table: Children will play with a ocean sensory table full of sand, water, seashells, and ocean animal toys.

Animals in the Ocean: Children will song along to the song as well as dance and mimic the ocean animals in the song.

Books:

Listen to Our World, Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson

Way down deep in the deep blue sea, Jan Peck

Smiley Shark, Ruth Galloway



SUBTHEME 4: FARM ANIMALS

Activities

Pretend Play: Children will make farm animal masks or puppets to use as tools for pretend play

Song and Play: “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” will be sung and children will be able to use their farm animal masks or puppets as they sing along.

Mark Making: At the Art Center, have children work in small groups to make marks onto paper using the wheels of various styles of tractor toys.

Books:

Night Night Farm, Roger Priddy

The Flea’s Sneeze, Lynn Downey

Farmyard Beat, Lindsey Craig



SUBTHEME 5: IMAGINARY ANIMALS

Activities

Dragon Story: Children will make masks or puppets to use as tools for pretend play or retelling for the dragon story.

Pool Noodle Unicorn: Using pool noodles, children will make their own unicorn that they can later use for dramatic play

Drum Making: Children will make drums used in traditional Chinese dragon dance. They can also use the masks they made as they dance.

Books:

Duncan the Story Dragon, Amanda Driscoll

A Unicorn Named Sparkle, Amy Young

