



September 11, 2015 | by D'Vonne White

Lesson Plan: Fur, Scales, and Feathers: Identifying Animals

by D'Vonne White

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Grade	Preschool
Subject	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Plants, Animals & the Earth

Materials and Preparation

- Photographs of reptiles, mammals, and birds
- Flashcards with various animals
- Construction paper in green, red, and yellow
- Fur, Scales, and Feathers worksheet
- Magnets
- Whiteboard
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Dry erase markers
- [Fur, Feather, and Scales](#) video

Related Books and/or Media

Key Terms

- mammals
- birds

- reptiles

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to use language to describe observations between different types of animals such as mammals, reptiles, and birds.

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Begin the lesson by asking your students what birds have to cover their bodies.
- Ask the students what cats and dogs have to cover their bodies.
- Then, ask the same question about lizards and snakes.
- Tell the students that today they are going to learn about the different kinds of body coverings that animals have.

Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling (10 minutes)

- Inform students that all animals have one of three types of body coverings: fur, scales, or feathers.
- Tell the students that some animals have fur, and these animals are called **mammals**.
- Explain to your students that animals with feathers are called **birds**.
- Tell your students that animals with scales are **reptiles**.
- Watch the [Fur, Feather, and Scales](#) video.



Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling (10 minutes)

- Create 3 categories on the whiteboard. Label them *mammals*, *birds*, and *reptiles*.
- Write underneath each category *fur*, *feathers*, and *scales*, respectively.
- Show the students photographs of various animals, such as a lion, an ostrich, and an iguana.
- Ask the students to categorize the animals and use magnets to place the photos in the correct group.

Independent Working Time (10 minutes)

- Give the students the Fur, Scales, and Feathers worksheet.

- Direct the students to tell each other what group each animal belongs in.
- Provide each student with 3 pieces of assorted construction paper, glue, and scissors.
- Ask the students to cut out the pictures of the animals and paste them onto the construction paper.
- Tell students to paste reptiles onto green paper, mammals onto red paper, and birds onto yellow paper.

Differentiation

- **Enrichment:** Have students use a Venn diagram to compare the mammals, reptiles, and birds.
- **Support:** Show the students flashcards of various animals. Have them tell you if they are mammals, reptiles, or birds.

Assessment (10 minutes)

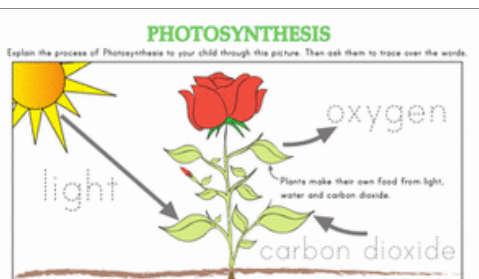
- Mini-conference with each student, and ask him to give an example of a mammal, a bird, and a reptile.
- Record their abilities to answer the three questions accurately.

Review and Closing (10 minutes)

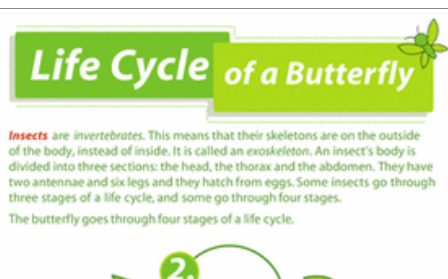
- To close out the lesson, read *Fur and Feathers* by Janet Halfmann.

Related Learning Resources

worksheet
How Plants Grow



worksheet
Life Cycle of a Butterfly



workbook
Tracing Practice for Preschool

Packed with tracing activities, this workbook

*helps preschoolers develop essential
prewriting skills.*

