

Teacher's Guide
All About Baby Animals series

Introduction

This teacher's guide helps educate young children about baby animals. Animals live in many different habitats. Some live in grasslands, rainforests, or frozen lands. Some live at the zoo, on the farm, or in the backyard. This guide contains activities for teaching the five subject areas: Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and the Arts. Beginning readers will practice sight words and repetitive text as they learn about the wide variety of animals in the world.

National Standards

This series supports the Science and Language Arts. Go to www.enslowclassroom.com and/or www.enslow.com and click on the Curriculum Correlations tab. Click on your state, grade level, and curriculum standard to display how any book in this series backs up your state's specific curriculum standard.

Guided Reading Level: B

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All About Baby Animals Teacher's Guide
for
Baby Farm Animals

Animals live in many different habitats. Some live in grasslands, rainforests, or frozen lands. Some live at the zoo, on the farm, or in the backyard. Using bright, engaging, color photographs, this book focuses on baby animals on the farm. The text can lead to discussions about the qualities of baby farm animals and the characteristics of a farm habitat.

Activities for teaching the five subject areas—Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, and the Arts—can be found in the attached pages of this teacher's guide.

Here are some basic facts that you can share with your students about animals.

Animal Basics

Amphibians

Amphibians are cold-blooded animals that need sunlight to heat their bodies. They cannot cool themselves and must find shade or a burrow if they become too hot. Amphibians spend part of their lives in water and part on land. Adult females lay their eggs in water. Young amphibians do not look like adults until they mature from water-breathing juveniles into air-breathing adults. Examples of amphibians include frogs, toads, salamanders, mudpuppies, caecilians, and newts. The largest amphibian is the Japanese giant salamander, which is about 6 feet (1.8 m) long. The smallest is the Izecksohn's toad, which weights just a few grams. To learn more, visit <http://www.amphibians.org>.

Birds

Birds have wings, are warm-blooded, and lay eggs. They live all over the world. A bird has feathers and a beak, but no teeth. There are approximately 10,000 species of birds. The largest bird is the ostrich, which stands 10 feet (3 m) tall and the smallest is the bee hummingbird at 2 inches (5 cm) high. All birds have wings, but many cannot fly. For more information, visit: <http://www.birds.com/>.

Fish

Fish are covered with scales, have two pairs of fins, and live in water. Fish are streamlined for fast swimming and get oxygen from water through their gills. Most fish are cold-blooded. Fish come in many sizes and shapes. The largest fish is the whale shark, which can grow more than 50 feet (15 m) long. The smallest fish has been found in the swamps of Indonesia and is only 0.31 inches (8 mm) long. For more information, visit: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/>.

Insects

An insect is an animal with six legs, two or four wings, and antennae. Flies, grasshoppers, and ants are insects. So are beetles, mosquitoes, and butterflies. Some insects spread pollen from flower to flower. This helps plants produce seeds and fruit. Many insects are food for animals, such as frogs, fish, lizards, and birds. In some parts of the world, even people eat insects! There are one million known insect species. Scientists believe there may be 35 million more species to discover. The goliath beetle may be the world's heaviest insect (4.1 oz, or 115 g), and the adult male of a parasitic wasp may be the world's smallest (0.139 mm long). For more information, visit: <http://www.insects.org>.

Mammals

There are over 5,000 species of mammals. Humans are mammals. Mammals are warm-blooded—able to control their body temperature without the assistance of direct sunlight. The largest mammal is the blue whale at over 100 feet (33 m) long and the smallest is the bumblebee bat at 1.0–1.5 inches (30 mm) long. Mammals have body hair, have three middle ear bones, and nourish their young with milk that females produce. Most mammals give birth to live young, but there are species of mammals that lay eggs. For more information, visit:

<http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/mammals.htm>.

Reptiles

Reptiles are primarily born from eggs. Babies hatch from an egg and look like their parents. Reptiles are cold-blooded and need the sun to warm themselves. They also cannot cool themselves and will look for shade or cool water if they become too hot. Reptiles breathe air. They are descended from four-limbed ancestors and most species still have four limbs today. Reptiles live on every continent except Antarctica. Reptiles include crocodiles, alligators, lizards, snakes, turtles, and tortoises. The largest reptile is the Australian saltwater crocodile, which can reach 23 feet (over 7 m) long. The smallest is a gecko found on the Virgin Islands. It is about 0.6 inches (1.6 cm) long. To learn more, visit: <http://www.reptilechannel.com>.

Activities

SAFETY WARNING:

Before any activity, make sure your students do not have any allergies to items that you might use. Never use anything that is sharp or may cut a student. Do not use anything so hot or cold that might hurt a student. Always have an adult supervise all activities to ensure the safety of your students.

Reading/Language Arts activity: Sight words

Ask your students to use some words to describe a baby. (They are young, small, new, etc.) Do these words also describe baby animals on the farm?

Read the book aloud with your students. Beginning readers will find easy words and repetitive phrases throughout the book. Most of the words used in this book can be found in the Dolch word list, which is appropriate for beginning readers through the third grade. To learn more, visit www.dolch-words.com. Additional words that may be specific to this book can be found in the Words to Know section on page 3.

Math activity: Count them up and size them up

Play the “feed the chickens” game. Cover the tops of five plastic containers, such as empty yogurt cups or margarine tubs, with an image of a chicken. Cut a hole beside each chicken’s mouth and write the numerals 1 through 5 on the lids (one numeral on each lid). Provide corn kernels. Invite the students to drop the correct number of kernels into each container.

Science activity: Animals on the move

After reading the Animal Basics section of this teacher’s guide, explain the variety of animals on the farm. Teach students that different animals have different ways of moving. Invite your students to move like farm animals. Walk like a chicken, gallop like a horse, waddle like a duck, and sway like a pig. Which animals walk on two legs? Which walk on four legs?

Social Studies activity: Make some bread and butter!

Tell your students about all the things that come from a farm. What items can they name? Do they know where bread comes from? Bread is made from farm-grown wheat. Wheat is a grass, and the flower of this grass is what is ground to make bread. Butter is made from the cow’s milk.

Bring in a bread machine and bake some bread during class. Let the students help you measure the ingredients. Borrow some extra bread machines if you can.

To make the butter, place some heavy cream (whipping cream) in a clean baby food jar. Fill each jar halfway with the cream. Insert a clean plastic marble in the jar. Allow the students to shake the jar. Next, mix in a pinch of salt. Spread the butter on the bread for your students to taste.

Arts activity: Sing-a-long

A song to sing while making butter (from www.teachingheart.net):

Making Butter Boogie (sing to “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”)

Shake it up, Shake it down

Shake it, shake it all around.

Shake it high, Shake it low

Shake it, shake it to and fro.

Shake it over, Shake it under

Pretty soon, you'll have butter!

Reproducible Handout
Color the cow and the barn.

