



Unit 4: Animal Traits & Survival

Subject Area: Science	Course: First Grade Science		
Unit Title: Animal Traits and Survival	Grade(s): 1	Start: February	End: April
Unit Summary: In this unit, students explore how the external characteristics of animals are essential for their survival. Students also make observations of parents and their offspring, determining how they are similar and how their behaviors help offspring survive.			

Stage 1: Desired Results

Massachusetts Learning Standards

- 1-LS1-1. Use evidence to explain that (a) different animals use their body parts and senses in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water, and air, and (b) plants have roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits that are used to take in water, air, and other nutrients, and produce food for the plant.
- 1-LS1-2. Obtain information to compare ways in which the behavior of different animal parents and their offspring help the offspring to survive.
- 1-LS3-1. Use information from observations (first-hand and from media) to identify similarities and differences among individual plants or animals of the same kind.

Transfer (Authentic, relevant application of learning to new situations)

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- students will observe and interpret the behavior of different animals to see how they care for their offspring.
- students will visit the homes of three different animals and see what they do to take care of themselves and their offspring. They will see that some animals can make their homes in very different and surprising places, but they



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share some behaviors in common with one another.

Meaning

Enduring Understandings

Students will understand that...

- Different animals have specific body structures that help them survive. Examples include specialized bird beaks that can eat specific foods, and squirrel mouths that can expand and carry large amounts of food.
- Many parent animals engage in specific behaviors that provide protection for their young. This increases their chance of survival.
- Camouflage helps animals blend in with their surroundings.
- Physical and behavioral characteristics are passed on from one generation to the next.

Essential Questions

Students will consider...

- How can you help a lost baby animal find its parents?
- Why do birds have beaks?
- Why do baby ducks follow their mother?
- Why are polar bears white?
- Why do family members look alike?
- How do animals take care of their babies?

Acquisition

Knowledge

Students will know...

- Adaptations
- Camouflage
- Protection
- Heredity
- Body structures (beak, feet etc)

Skills

Students will be skilled at...

- Generating observations, asking questions and gathering clues for how parents and offsprings are similar or different.
- Recognizing the traits are passed down from one generation to the next and that sometimes a



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- Survival
- Traits

- generation is skipped.
- Understanding animals use camouflage to help them survive.
 - Recognizing that parents exhibit certain behaviors in order to protect their offspring.
 - Animals have body parts that are specific to their species survival