



BE A ZOO DETECTIVE

Finding animals at the zoo based on body characteristics



GRADES 1-2

KEY WORDS

- pattern
- fur
- feathers
- scales
- camouflage
- stripes
- tail

STANDARDS

- SCI.1.3.1
- SCI.2.3.2

OBJECTIVES

- Students will understand that animals have different characteristics and will be able to identify the animals based on these differences.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Animals have different body coverings depending on what class they belong to:
 - Mammals - fur or hair
 - Birds – feathers
 - Reptiles - dry scales
 - Amphibians - moist, smooth skin
 - Fish - wet, slimy scales
- Animal coverings come in a variety of colors and patterns.
- Colors and patterns protect animals by:
 - Helping them blend into their surroundings (example: a tiger in tall grass).
 - Making them look like something else (example: a walking stick insect).
 - Warning others to stay away (example: skunk).
- Animals' bodies are different shapes and sizes. They do not all have the same characteristic (example: number of legs, position of eyes and ears on head, tails, toes, etc.).

PROCEDURE

- Give students the included worksheet to take to the zoo.
- Help them find the animals on the sheet.
- Have each student find an animal in each category, write it down, and check off that category.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- After visiting all parts of the zoo, check to make certain the students have a check in each box and an animal associated with that category.

EXTENSIONS

- Have each student read aloud their animals and explain why he or she placed them in this category.
- If you are not visiting the zoo, show students pictures in the classroom and have students complete the worksheet.





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Look for these animals during your zoo visit. Check the box and write in the name of the animal on the blank.



Name _____

An animal with smooth, wet skin _____

An animal with fur _____

An animal with feathers _____

A camouflaged animal _____

An animal with dry scales _____

An animal with stripes _____

An animal with stripes _____

An animal with no tail _____

An animal with wet scales _____

