

Teacher Instructions

Lesson 1:

What's Your Favorite Animal?

Materials: *The Lion & the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney or *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell; pencils; crayons; scissors

Time Required: 30 minutes

Essential Question: Can you name and describe a variety of different animals?

Directions:

- 1. Read** an animal-themed book such as *The Lion & the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney or *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell.
- 2. Talk** about the different animals featured in the book with your students.
- 3. Share** your favorite animal and explain to students why this animal is your favorite, giving two reasons.
- 4. Encourage** students to share their favorite animal with the class asking them to give two reasons why this animal is their favorite.
- 5. Have** students identify two to three things that make their favorite animal special. To help in this discovery, ask students the following questions: *Where does your animal live? What does your animal eat? What does your animal look like? Does your animal have fur, skin, scales, or something else completely different?*
- 6. Sing** “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” having each student name their favorite animal (perhaps in English and Spanish!) while also making their favorite animal’s sound or sounds.

Follow-Up! Play a Game of Animal Charades

Write your students’ favorite animals on small sheets of paper. Fold the paper up and place in a hat or bag. Have students choose a small sheet of paper from the hat or bag and encourage them to mimic the animal they have chosen while their classmates guess!

Lesson 2:

Animal ABCs

Materials: *ABC Animal Jamboree* by Giles Andreae or *Z Is for Moose* by Kelly Bingham; Student Worksheet; paper; pencils; toy animals

Time Required: 30 minutes

Essential Questions: What can you write about your favorite animal?

Directions:

- 1. Read** a book like *ABC Animal Jamboree* by Giles Andreae or *Z Is for Moose* by Kelly Bingham.
- 2. Have** students recognize their favorite animals, if featured in the book.
- 3. Sing** the ABCs with your class.
- 4. Encourage** students to identify the letters in each animal’s name.
- 5. Distribute** the “My Favorite Animal” Student Worksheet to your students.
- 6. Explain** to students that they will be drawing and writing about their favorite animal on the Student Worksheet.
- 7. Help** students fill in the blanks about their favorite animals. Younger students can write the first letter of their animal on the lines provided. Older students should try to write the entire word.

Follow-Up! Play a Game of Animal ABC Hide-and-Seek

Label plastic or plush animal toys. Hide these labeled animals around the room and encourage students to find them. Have students identify the animals as well as recognize the first letter of each animal’s name.

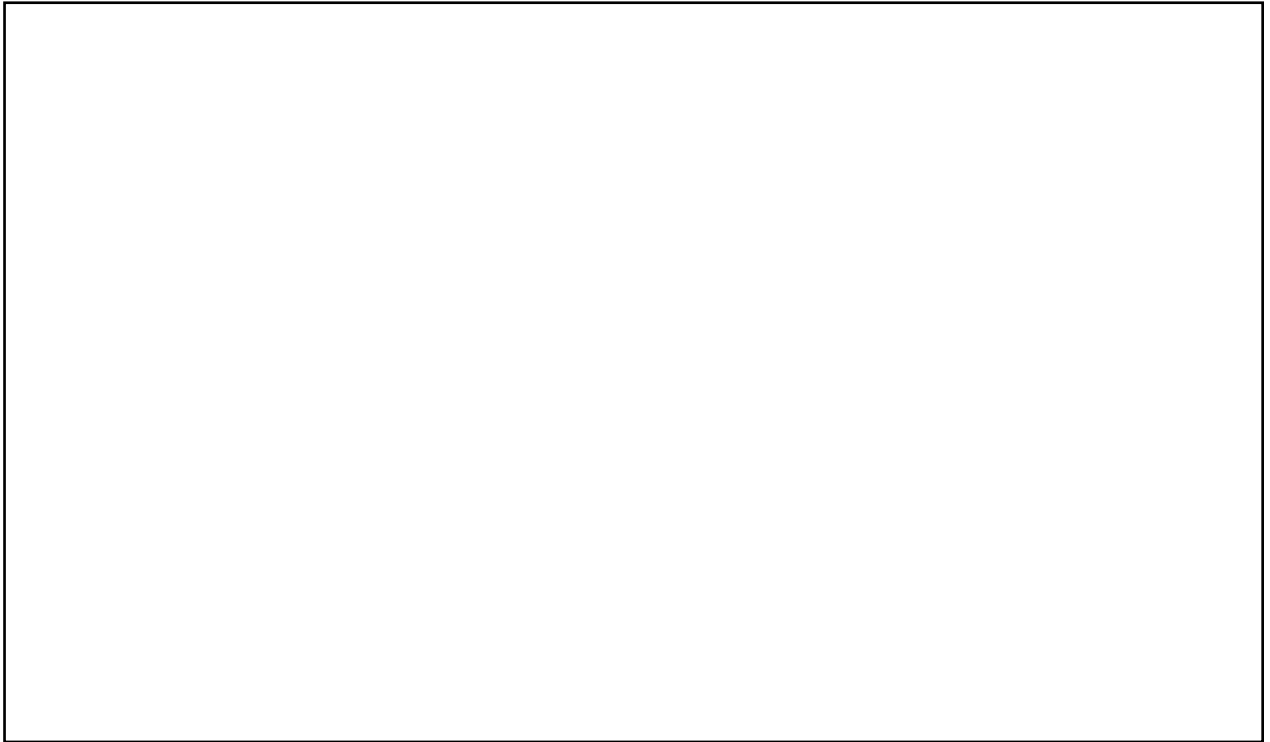


Make sure to hang up the **Talk, Read, Sing.® Every Day!** poster to keep track of how many times you and your students talk, read, and sing together.

Student Worksheet Name: _____

My Favorite Animal

Directions: Draw your favorite animal in the space below. Then write its name (or just the first letter) on the lines.



My favorite animal is a _____.

My favorite animal lives in _____.

My favorite animal has _____.

Talk. Read. Sing.®

Animal Antics Parent Event

Parents are a child's very first teachers—so you know that building strong partnerships with parents is vital to student success. Invite parents into the classroom to share in the learning and to become active members of the classroom community. Have students bring the invitation below home to their parents and host a low-key parent event. You can do some or all of the following:

- ▶ **Have** students share what they have learned with their parents.
- ▶ **Display** the animal-themed **Talk. Read. Sing.®** Every Day! poster and share how often the class has been talking, reading, and singing each day.
- ▶ **Decorate** your classroom with students' art projects from Lesson 2.
- ▶ **Sing** "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" in English and Spanish and have students focus on calling out their favorite animals.
- ▶ **Play** a game of "Animal Charades" with parents.

Dear Grown-up,

You are invited to Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____'s class to learn more about our **Animal Antics!** Spend some time in my classroom while I share what I've learned with you.

Date: _____ Time: _____

Please RSVP by Date: _____

For more information, please reach
my teacher at _____.

