

Animal Jeopardy – The Animals of Australia

Lesson Plan

Grade Level: K-8

Curriculum Focus: Mammals

Lesson Duration: Three class periods

Student Objectives

- Learn about the animals of Australia.
- Write questions for a class game of Jeopardy.
- Play Jeopardy using the questions that students wrote.

Materials

- Discovery School video on *unitedstreaming: The Jeff Corwin Experience: Australia: Grand Island Ecosystem*
Search for this video by using the video title (or a portion of it) as the keyword.

Selected clips that support this lesson plan:

- The Dingoes
 - Australian Death Adder
 - Blue-Tongued Skink
 - Night Creatures
 - Eastern Brown Snake
 - Koalas
 - Looking for Goannas
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- Computer(s) with Internet access
 - Paper and pencils

Procedures

1. Begin the lesson by showing students clips from *The Jeff Corwin Experience: Australia: Grand Island Ecosystem*.
2. After watching the video, tell students that as a way to see how much they learned about the animals of Australia, the class is going to play a game of Jeopardy. The first step is for each student to write three to five questions and answers.

3. If students need help getting started, you may suggest the following questions:
 - Where is Australia located?
 - What are dingoes?
 - What common animal do dingoes resemble?
 - What is unique about the skink that Jeff Corwin saw in Australia?
 - What kind of lizard is unique to Australia?
 - What are the mating habits of this lizard?
 - What animals are koalas related to?
4. Give students time in class to work on their questions. Then collect them and divide the class into two teams. You can pick a student moderator or do the job yourself.
5. Play a couple of rounds of Jeopardy. Remind students to respond with a question; for example, in response to “Common animal that dingoes resemble” the answer should be “What are dogs?”
6. Conclude the lesson by asking students what they learned about the animals of Australia. Do students think that the animals are unique? Which animal did they find the most interesting?

Assessment

Use the following three-point rubric to evaluate students’ work during this lesson.

- **3 points:** Students were highly attentive during the video; wrote interesting questions for the Jeopardy game; were highly engaged in the game.
- **2 points:** Students were mostly attentive during the video; wrote satisfactory questions for the Jeopardy game; participated in the game.
- **1 point:** Students were not attentive during the video; did not complete questions for the game; participated minimally in the game.

Vocabulary

Australia

Definition: An island continent located between the South Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean

Context: Australia is the only continent that is also a country.

dingo

Definition: An animal in the canine family that is wild, travels in packs, and is a powerful predator

Context: Dingoes travel in packs, which enables them to hunt down their prey and survive in the outback.

goanna

Definition: A lizard in the monitor family that is found only in Australia

Context: The male and female goanna lizards dig a burrow and mate for 12 days, after which the female remains inactive for about three weeks before depositing the eggs into the burrow.

koala

Definition: A mammal in the marsupial family that spends its life in the trees

Context: Many people think that the koala is a bear, but it is actually in the same family as the kangaroo.

Academic Standards

National Academy of Sciences

The National Academy of Sciences provides guidelines for teaching science in grades K–12 to promote scientific literacy. To view the standards, visit this Web site:

<http://books.nap.edu/html/nses/html/overview.html#content>.

This discussion guide addresses the following science standards:

Grades K-4

- Life Science: Organisms and environments

Grades 5-8

- Life Science: Populations and ecosystems, Diversity and adaptations of organisms

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)

McREL's Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education addresses 14 content areas. To view the standards and benchmarks, visit

<http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp>.

This discussion guide addresses the following national standards:

- Language Arts – Viewing: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media; Writing: Gathers and uses information for research purposes

Support Materials

Develop custom worksheets, educational puzzles, online quizzes, and more with the free teaching tools offered on the Discoveryschool.com Web site. Create and print support materials, or save them to a Custom Classroom account for future use. To learn more, visit

- <http://school.discovery.com/teachingtools/teachingtools.html>

