

ANIMAL EXPLORATIONS

for *Around the World on Eighty Legs*

Questions, Questions ...

Try these starting points for research, class books or discussion. Or just for fun after a traditional unit of study, create a game show, so students can show what they've learned.

Love the Skin You're In/Neither "Hair" Nor There

In the animal kingdom, form has a function. An animal's skin or coat can help it survive. What's so special about each of these animals' skin, hair or fur? (Chinchilla, rhino, yak, ocelot, tapir, alpaca, Arctic fox, sugar glider, snow leopard)



Lumps, Bumps, Scales, Horns and Thorns

Funny as they may look, lumps and bumps serve a purpose. How are the poky, pointy (or just plain funny-looking) parts of each animal helpful? (Thorny devil, warthog, camel, pangolin, rhino, echidna, cassowary)

Say "Cheese!"

What's so special about each of these animals' teeth or tusks? (Crocodile, agouti, warthog, hyena, walrus, elephant, piranha)

What's the Weather?

Did you know that a sloth's hair grows upside down, from its belly to its back? Why would that be useful in the rainforest? How is each animal adapted to the climate in its habitat? What behaviors do they display to aid survival? (Macaque, sloth, Australian desert frog, chinchilla, yak)

Predator or Prey?

Carnivore, herbivore or omnivore? Determine what each of these creatures likes to eat, and whether it is a predator or prey. (Anaconda, krill, agouti, caribou, electric eel, hoatzin, lion, goanna, hyena, mouse deer, slow loris, pangolin, takin, piranha, hippo, dingo, skua)

Spots and Stripes Forever

Animal color is useful for camouflage, warning or attracting a mate. How is each animal's color or pattern helpful? (Anaconda, tiger, ocelot, poison dart frog, penguin, quetzal, zebra)

Notable Noses

What's so special about these animal noses? (Proboscis monkey, tapir, elephant, thorny devil, rhino)

animal explorations

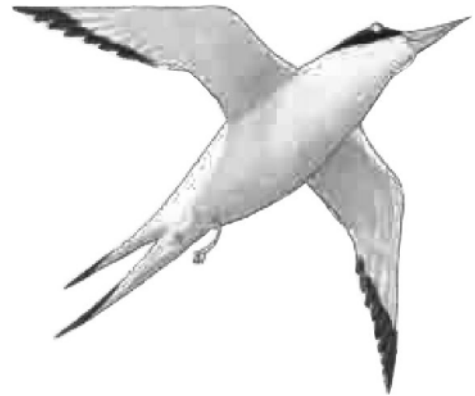
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What's for Dinner?

What does each of these creatures eat? Is there anything unusual about their diet or eating habits? (Hoatzin, pangolin, piranha, skua, koala, agouti, hyena)

The Need for Speed (or Lack Thereof)

What is notable about how each of the following animals moves? How does its pace help it survive? (Ostrich, sloth, basilisk, cheetah, slow loris, tiger)



Fat's Where It's At

In the animal kingdom, storing up fat serves a purpose. How is fat useful to each of these animals? (Walrus, camel, Weddell seal)

What's a Marsupial?

What is a marsupial? What makes them unique? Use a Venn diagram to compare two marsupials. How are they alike? How are they different? (kangaroo, sugar glider, bilby, koala, echidna)

Bird's the Word

Use a Venn diagram to compare two (or three) birds. How are they alike? How are they different? (Arctic tern, auk, cassowary, emu, guillemot, hoatzin, ostrich, penguin, quetzal, skua)

