

Activity-9: What are Animals?

Aim: Introduction to the Animal world.

Special note to the instructor(s):

Behaviour is a fundamental and well distinguishable aspect to living beings, especially animals.

Simply put, behaviour stands highest in the hierarchy of all phenotypes in all living beings. It is the final and grossest form of the output of our genetic material and our environment. This makes behaviour the most vividly observable output of a living being hence the most difficult form of output to interpret and understand.

Fortunately understanding behaviour-the crudest form of output demands the least of physical tools from the observer. All that is needed to observe and understand animal behaviour is a well stimulated and tempered mind-available fairly to all of us. Thus we begin our study of animals by observing and interpreting their behaviour.

This Activity is meant to be a preamble for the Animal Kingdom. The following questionnaire is primarily meant for the eyes of the instructor. Introduction to animals should be done by answering the following question to the students.

Procedure:

Question to discuss:

1. What are animals? What are the differences between animals and plants?
2. Are there other living being that are neither plants nor animals?
3. Is everything that moves are animals?
4. Different animals based on their size: very small animals like head lice, water fleas to very big animals like the blue whale, elephants etc.
5. Different animals as per their lifespan?
6. Different animals based on their habitat:

- Animals that live in the soil.
- Animals that live mostly in air.
- Animals that live in water.
- Animals that live on other animals.
- Animals that live on soil.

7. Different animals based on what they eat:

- Animals that eat other living animals directly for food.
- Animals that eat other dead animals directly for food.
- Animals that only eat plants for food.
- Animals that can eat both animal and plants for food?
- Animals that eat only other animals for food?
- Animals that steal food from other animals.
- Animals that hunt independently.
- Animals that only hunt in a group.
- Animals that cannot eat raw food, either dead or alive.

8. Animals that can move on their own.

9. Animals that move around by taking free rides on other animals.

10. Animals that can move very fast, be noisy and hunt.

11. Animals that sneak on other animals 'hunted prey by being very silent.

12. Animals that can use tools to find food.

13. Animals that eat their own kind for food.

14. Are their differences in the kinds of food that animals eat when they are healthy and when they are sick?

15. What are the differences in the foods that wild animals eat and those eaten by domesticated animals of same kind? If there is a difference, does it have positive effects or negative effects? If there is no difference and both kinds are healthy, then why?

16. Do large animals eat more food and small animals eat less food? Is this true for all animals?

17. When an animal hunts for food, is the prey smaller in size than it or larger in size than it or of the same size?
18. Frequency of food intake by different animals in a day?
19. Does the kind of food affect the frequency of food intake by animals?
20. Does animal size, habitat (location) and health status affect the frequency of food intake by animals?
21. Does the mode of food intake by animals affect the frequency of food intake (mode: hunting independently, hunting in a group, stealing hunted food)?
22. Does frequency of food intake, mode of food intake affects or is affected by the lifespan of an animal?
23. What are the different body parts of an animal and what are their uses?
24. Do different animals use a particular body part differently or in the same way?
25. Are all body parts of an animal used in food intake?

Concepts covered:

There are millions of types of animals. They all behave differently. Some are active in the day; some are active in the night. Some eat plants while others eat animals. Some hunt independently while others steal food. Some are content eating left overs. Some live in water, some live on lands while many can live on/in both. Some are well off by living on or in other animals and plants. Some live for 100 years while others live for only 2 weeks. Many animals eat a lot while others can sustain by eating once in several months. Some are armed to win a battle-they carry poison. Many give birth to a large number of babies while others only a few. Some can built their homes while others invade, colonize and occupy readily built homes.

Some groups are very intelligent, they can talk, and they can learn languages.

They can build tool and invent. We humans are among them.

