

Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE

Title of Lesson: 4 Basic Needs of an Animal

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 3 **Unit Title:** Animals

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1CS7

S1L1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Animals and their needs, basic life requirements

Learning Activity (description in steps):

Abstract (limit 100 characters): The goal was to create a visual aid to help students see the 4 requirements of an animal—food, shelter, air, and water.

Details: To begin this lesson, we reviewed the 4 basic things that every animal needs (food, shelter, water and air). Then, I showed the students the project we were putting together. I created a worksheet that basically divided the paper into 4 large quadrants, one quadrant for each need and at the top it said “What do animals need?” I explained to the students that we were going to use the eagle as our model animal for this project since it is their school mascot. For each square, I had the student write in one of the 4 needs. In the air square, I used cotton balls that had been pulled apart and I glued them in the square to represent air. For water, I used different colors of blue paint and the student applied this with a cotton ball. For the food square, I had the student draw a fish and then the teacher and I came around and glued some glitter to the fish. For the shelter square, the student glued on sticks that I brought in from outside and created a nest. Basically at the end of the lesson, it we had created a visual aid to see what animals need.

Materials Needed (type and quantity):

- Paper for each student divided into 4 squares
- Pencil
- Cotton balls
- Blue paint
- Sticks
- Glitter

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions): [Click here to enter text.](#)

The best idea would be to take the activity one square at a time and only provide the student with the items they need to complete the square they are working on. Also, I would maybe choose an alternative to glitter because it was a little messy but the students loved it.

Sources/References:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)