

WONDERFULLY WILD UNIT

LESSON 1: Grades K-3

WHAT'S WILD? WHAT'S NOT?

Show Me Standards: Academic Goals: 1.2, 1.3,1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7

Knowledge Goals: Communication Arts-1,5,6; Science-3,4,8; Social Studies-5,6; Fine Arts-1,2,4

Objective: To help children understand the differences between wild and domestic animals.

Materials:

- Large plastic trash bag
- Numerous “stuffed” toy animals
- or*
- Magazine photos of various animals
- A dictionary

Method: We share our world with lots of different creatures. Some have fur; some fins; some feathers. All share one common trait – they are alive and need our respect.

This lesson will help students to understand the innate differences between wild and domestic animals.

Ask students to bring a stuffed animal to class – OR – one or two pictures of an animal from a magazine or newspaper (Caution: encourage them to think of ALL types of animals, not just their favorite teddy bear.)

Write in large letters, side by side, the words DOMESTIC and WILD on the chalkboard. Draw a line separating the two and creating two columns. When students arrive, ask them to deposit their stuffed animals in the bag or photos in a box. Have students look up the words WILD and DOMESTIC in the dictionary. Write the definition on the chalkboard, under the appropriate word. Discuss the meanings.

Next, explore these question with your students:

- What are the differences between wild and domestic?
- What might these animals have in common? (i.e. fur, need for food and water, ability to feel pain and the elements, etc.)
- Where do wild animals live?
- Where do domestic animals live?

List the answers under the appropriate column.

Pass the bag or box from student to student. Each picks an animal or photo.

Ask students to think about the animal they chose. Students should then come to the front of the class, individually, and set their animal in front of the appropriate title of WILD or DOMESTIC.

Ask the students:

- Why did you choose that animal?
- What makes your animal wild or domestic?
- What other types of animals (not represented by the stuffed animals or photos) might be considered wild or domestic?

Explore these with students and help them to classify and list them under the proper heading. After all of the animals are classified as *wild* or *domestic*, leave the animals on display for lesson 2.

Call to Action: Invite other students in your school to visit the animals in your classroom. Encourage your students to share their knowledge of what is wild and what is domestic.

Web sites: For recommended animal-related web sites visit www.apamo.org and choose “Animal Issues” from the left-side menu, then choose “Links” from the top of the page. Or [click here](#) to launch your browser and link directly to the list.