

Animals Play Roles On The Farm

Summary: Students will explore the roles that various animals play on the farm.

Objectives:

The students will:

- Identify the two major roles that animals play on the farm: workers and producers.
- Name at least three types of animals that can often be found on farms.
- Identify at least three jobs that animals do on the farm.

Materials:

Activity #1:

- slips of paper
- pen
- bag

Activity #2:

- extra large index cards or cardstock
- animal pictures or graphics (horse, cow, chicken, goat, pig, sheep, cat, dog)
- glue
- scissors
- marker (or names of each animal printed on computer)

Getting Started:

Activity #1:

- Write the clues for each animal ahead of time, fold the slips of paper, and place them into the bag so that they are ready to use after you have introduced the initial information about the animals to the students.

Activity #2:

- The puzzle cards will need to be prepared ahead of time but they do not take very long to create.

Background:

Why do some farms have animals? What do the animals do on the farm? Each animal plays a different role on the farm. Some animals are workers and others are producers. Working animals can help with such things as plowing, pulling heavy loads, transportation, herding, and rodent control. Producers can make food and non-food products such as manure/fertilizer, fibers/clothing, and offspring.

Some common animals that can be found on Pennsylvania farms are cattle, pigs, chickens, sheep, horses, goats, dogs, and cats. Cattle can produce either milk or beef, and are used for plowing in other parts of the world. Pigs produce meat, lard, and leather, which can be used in many different products. Chickens provide meat, eggs, and feathers. Sheep can provide meat and wool. Goats can produce meat, milk, and wool/hair. Horses are working animals that can be used for transportation, pulling heavy loads, and plowing. Dogs work hard at herding and rodent control, and cats are also handy with rodent control.



Grade Level: K-6

Topic: Common animals on Pennsylvania farms

PA Environment & Ecology Standards Addressed:

Agriculture and Society:

4.4.4.B: Identify the role of the sciences in Pennsylvania agriculture.

- Identify common animals found on Pennsylvania farms.

4.4.4.C: Identify agricultural products that are local and regional.

Teaching Methods:

- Lecture/Discussion
- Hands-on activities
- Role-playing

Multiple Intelligences Utilized:

- Naturalistic
- Visual/Spatial
- Interpersonal
- Verbal/Linguistic

Activity #1: Who Am I?

Use this activity to review the roles of each of the eight farm animals.

- Write clues about an animal's job on a slip of paper (ex.= *"I am a herding animal and I can also catch mice."* ---dog). Write at least one clue for each animal.
- Fold the papers and place them inside a bag.
- In a group (or groups, depending on class size), ask the students to choose a paper from the bag and read the clue out loud.
- Then ask the student to decide which animal does the job that is described in the clue (this can be done in pairs if students might need help).
- You could ask the student if the animal is a worker or producer.

Activity #2: Animal Puzzle Cards

- Use extra large index cards or cut down pieces of cardstock to make puzzle cards by cutting down the middle of each card using a different design for each card (zigzag for one, curve for another, etc.).
- On the left side of each card glue the picture or graphic of a farm animal.
- On the right side of each corresponding card glue or write the name of each farm animal.
- Have the students practice identifying the animals and reading the names of the animals by putting the puzzles together.

Extensions/Variations:

- Using small, plastic farm animal figures, play a review game that challenges the students to recall what they have learned about each of the eight farm animals' jobs on the farm. Give one of the animal figures to each group (or pair or student), but do not disclose the identity of the animal to the rest of the class. Let the groups have a few minutes to quietly discuss what clues they will reveal to the class about their animal's job without giving its identity away. Next, assemble the class and take turns having each group present clues about their animal (ex.= *"I give milk and my hair can be used to make sweaters."* --goat). Students in the audience should raise their hand if they think they know which animal they are describing. There are many directions you can take with this activity and it is a fun way to assess their retention from the "Who Am I?" activity.
- Read stories about animals---there are so many out there to choose from.
- Find nursery rhymes about animals and study them.

- Think of as many expressions that compare people to farm animals as you can, such as to: "be chicken," "be a mother hen," "eat like a horse," "be as stubborn as a mule," "be a silly goose," "be a bull in a china shop," and "talk turkey." Students could try to create their own expression or find others that haven't been mentioned.
- Conduct animal job interviews for the different animals on the farm.

Evaluation:

Rubric: Animals Play Roles On The Farm

3	2	1	0	The student can identify the two roles that animals play on the farm.
3	2	1	0	The student can name at least three types of animals that can often be found on farms.
3	2	1	0	The student can identify at least three jobs that farm animals do on the farm.
3	2	1	0	The student can name at least three products that farm animals produce.
12	8	4	0	Total Score: /12

Resources:

Farm animals. (1991). Dorling Kindersley Limited: London.

Look and learn about animals on the farm. (1998). Brimax Books Ltd: Newmarket, England.

Morgan, S. (1999). Animals on the farm. Franklin Watts: NY.

Fun Facts!

Two animals that are normally enemies, can actually work at the same job in order to eliminate rodents and pests from a farm. They are cats and dogs!

