

ANIMALS ACROSS THE WORLD

A colourful guide to what we will be learning this half term

MAMMALS	BIRDS	REPTILES	FISH	AMPHIBIANS	HABITATS
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OUR BIG QUESTION

How are animals around the world different, and how are they suited to the places where they live?

Across six weeks, pupils will explore animals, habitats and life cycles through practical, visual and hands-on learning. The topic also gives us opportunities to develop reading, writing, maths, communication and physical skills.

Our 6-week animal adventure

WEEK 1 Our World & Mammals World map and continents • Habitats • Mammal Misfits: furry, hairy or wrinkly?	WEEK 2 Mammals What's inside? Explore the parts of an animal's skeleton.
WEEK 3 Birds Day and night wheel • When are different animals awake?	WEEK 4 Reptiles Who eats what? Explore food chains • Make a snake mobile.
WEEK 5 Fish & Ocean Creatures Observe fish patterns and colours • Identify and label ocean creatures.	WEEK 6 Amphibians Growing up: explore an amphibian life cycle.

PE FOCUS

Fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, throwing, catching, balancing and changing direction, with increasing control, accuracy and coordination. Pupils will also develop sport-specific skills and create, practise and perform movement sequences.

SCIENCE IN ACTION!

WHAT WILL WE DO? Hands-on challenges linked to forces, materials, movement and sound

Alongside our animal topic, pupils will take part in practical science investigations. We will make predictions, test ideas, observe what happens and talk about what we discover.

MAGNETS

A Magnet Detective

Can you find something that looks like metal but isn't attracted to a magnet?

ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS

Light the Lighthouse!

Investigate how to make a complete electrical circuit. What happens when we change one part?

SAVE THE EGG!

Protect the Egg

Design something to stop an egg from breaking. Think about cushioning and slowing the fall.

SCRAPYARD CHALLENGE

Build a Moving Vehicle

Can you build a vehicle using only scrap materials? Explore how forces make objects move and how wheels and axles help.

PROPELLER-POWERED BOATS

Make It Move!

Build a boat that moves through water using a propeller. Explore how a propeller pushes water backwards.

CUP TELEPHONES

Forces & Sound

Explore how forces can cause objects to move or vibrate, producing sound. Test string lengths, tension, cups and materials.

SKILLS WE WILL PRACTISE

Curiosity • Predicting • Observing • Testing • Explaining • Problem-solving • Teamwork

LEARNING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

The animal theme gives us a meaningful context for English, maths and communication

ENGLISH & COMMUNICATION

Phonics: sound awareness, letter–sound knowledge, blending, segmenting, reading fluency and spelling.

Writing: learning is differentiated to meet individual needs. Pupils will work on sequencing sentences, punctuation, describing, tenses, conjunctions, expanded noun phrases, headings and paragraphs.

Colourful Semantics: Who? + Doing What? + What? + Where?

Example: The koala is eating leaves in the tree.

MATHS

Number & place value: counting, comparing, representing, reading and writing numbers, place value and problem-solving.

Calculation: number facts, mental and written methods, inverse operations, estimating and checking answers.

Measurement & fractions: comparing, estimating, measuring, calculating, telling the time, converting, recognising and comparing fractions and exploring equivalence.

Geometry: shapes and their properties, drawing and constructing, angles, position, directions, movement and patterns.

How to support at home:

- Talk about animals you see on walks, in books or on television. What habitat might they need?
- Ask your child to describe an animal using: who, doing what, what and where.
- Practise counting, comparing numbers, telling the time or spotting shapes in everyday life.
- Encourage curiosity: ask “What do you think will happen?” before a practical activity.

ACTIVE, CURIOUS & CONFIDENT LEARNERS

Developing skills as well as knowledge

CURIOSITY

Ask questions, make predictions and investigate.

COMMUNICATION

Talk, listen, label, describe and build sentences.

PROBLEM-SOLVING

Try ideas, make changes and work out what helps.

TEAMWORK

Cooperate, share ideas and take part positively.

RESILIENCE

Keep trying, learn from mistakes and improve.

CONFIDENCE

Take part, perform and celebrate progress.