

Lesson Plan

Exploring Animal Features

Grade Level: Foundation to Year 2

Subject: Science

Duration: 45 minutes

Australian Curriculum Links:

- **Biological Sciences Strand:**
 - **Living things have a variety of external features (ACSSU017):** Explore and compare the features and needs of different living things.

Learning Goals:

- Identify and describe common external features of animals, such as head, legs, and wings.
- Compare and contrast the features of different animals.
- Understand the purposes of these features for animals' survival and adaptation.

Resources:

- Pictures or illustrations of various animals (e.g., mammals, birds, insects).

- Drawing materials (pencils, markers, crayons).
- Chart paper or whiteboard and markers.
- Storybooks or videos featuring animals (optional).

Prior Knowledge: Students should have basic knowledge of:

- Different types of animals (e.g., mammals, birds, insects).
- Basic external body parts like head, legs, and wings.
- Ability to observe and compare objects based on their characteristics.

Lesson Sequence:

1. Introduction (5 minutes):

- Begin by discussing what students already know about animals.
- Show pictures or illustrations of different animals and ask students to identify and describe their external features (e.g., head, legs, wings).

2. Exploration of Animal Features (15 minutes):

- Display several pictures or illustrations of animals that have distinctive features such as heads, legs, and wings.
- Guide students through a discussion on each animal:
 - What do you notice about this animal's head? Legs? Wings?
 - How are these features helpful to the animal?
- Encourage students to use descriptive language (e.g., furry head, long legs, colourful wings).

3. Hands-on Activity: Drawing Animals (15 minutes):

- Provide each student with a piece of paper and drawing materials.
- Ask students to choose one animal from the pictures and draw it, focusing on depicting its external features (head, legs, wings).
- Encourage students to label their drawings with the names of the features they have drawn.
- Circulate to support and provide guidance as needed.

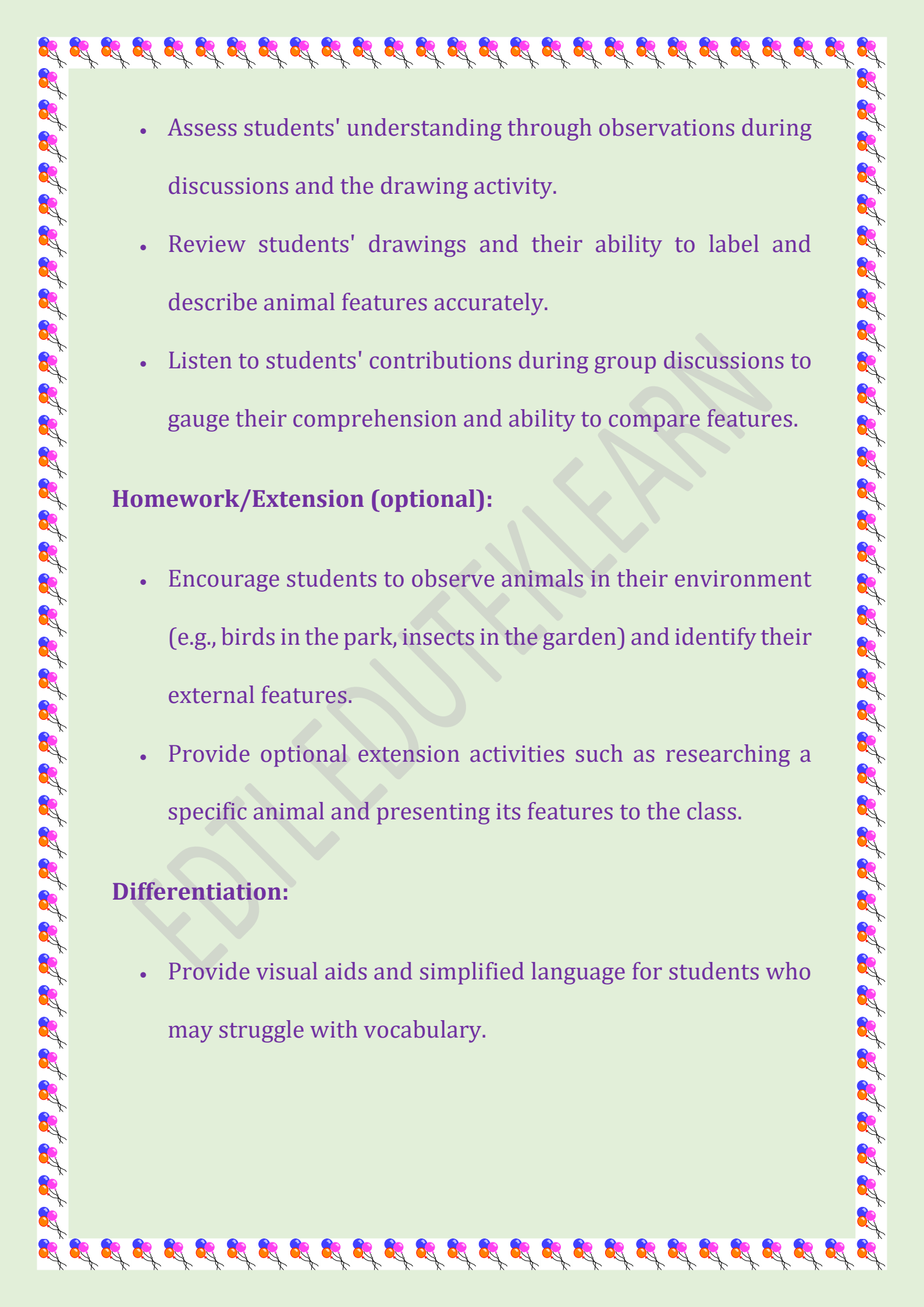
4. Group Discussion and Comparison (5 minutes):

- Have students share their drawings with a partner or in small groups.
- Discuss similarities and differences in the features they have drawn.
- Guide a whole-class discussion on how different animals have similar features (e.g., all birds have wings) but they may serve different purposes.

5. Reflection and Conclusion (5 minutes):

- Summarize the lesson by revisiting the key external features discussed (head, legs, wings).
- Ask students to reflect on what they have learned about animals' external features and their functions.
- Discuss why understanding these features is important for scientists who study animals.

Assessment:

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- Assess students' understanding through observations during discussions and the drawing activity.
 - Review students' drawings and their ability to label and describe animal features accurately.
 - Listen to students' contributions during group discussions to gauge their comprehension and ability to compare features.

Homework/Extension (optional):

- Encourage students to observe animals in their environment (e.g., birds in the park, insects in the garden) and identify their external features.
- Provide optional extension activities such as researching a specific animal and presenting its features to the class.

Differentiation:

- Provide visual aids and simplified language for students who may struggle with vocabulary.

- Offer additional challenges for advanced students, such as comparing more complex features or exploring how animals' features help them in their habitats.

Closure:

- Reinforce the importance of observing and understanding animal features to appreciate their diversity and adaptations.
- Connect the lesson to real-life examples and encourage students to continue exploring animals' features outside the classroom.

By engaging students in hands-on activities and discussions, this lesson plan aims to develop their understanding of common external features of animals, aligning with the Australian Curriculum's objectives in biological sciences for Foundation to Year 2 students.
