

Lesson Plan: Exploring Plants and Animals

Grade: Year 1 / Key Stage 1

Subject: Science

Topic: Plants and Animals

Duration: 60 minutes

Learning Objectives

- Identify and name common plants and animals.
- Describe basic parts of plants and animals.
- Understand the needs of plants and animals to stay healthy.

Materials Needed

- Pictures or flashcards of various plants (e.g., flowers, trees, vegetables) and animals (e.g., cats, dogs, birds, insects).
 - Real examples of plants (e.g., potted plant) and animals (e.g., classroom pet or animal toys).
 - Magnifying glasses.
 - Simple plant parts labels (roots, stems, leaves, flowers).
 - Chart paper and markers.
 - Plant growing kit or seeds (optional for extended activity).
 - Animal toys or figurines.
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Introduction (10 minutes)

1. Welcome and Introduction:

- Begin with a short discussion about what plants and animals are. Ask the students if they can name some plants and animals they know.
- Show pictures or flashcards of different plants and animals. Discuss each one briefly.

2. Learning Goals:

- Explain that today we will be learning more about plants and animals, including their parts and what they need to grow and stay healthy.

Main Activity (40 minutes)

1. Plant Exploration (20 minutes):

- **Observation:**
 - Show a real potted plant and discuss its different parts (roots, stem, leaves, and flowers). Use labels and diagrams to help.
 - Let students use magnifying glasses to examine the plant closely.
- **Discussion:**
 - Talk about what plants need to grow (water, sunlight, soil) and why each part of the plant is important.
- **Activity:**
 - Have students draw their own plant and label its parts. Alternatively, they can use a plant growing kit or seeds to plant their own seeds if time allows.

2. Animal Exploration (20 minutes):

- **Observation:**
 - Show animal toys or figurines and discuss different animals (e.g., mammals, birds, insects). Discuss

common features of animals and their basic needs (food, water, shelter).

- **Activity:**
 - Create a simple "Animal Needs" chart with the class. Ask students to help you fill it in with what different animals need to stay healthy.
 - Let students match pictures or toys of animals with their needs (e.g., a fish needs water, a bird needs a nest).

Conclusion (10 minutes)

1. Review:

- Recap what was learned about plants and animals. Ask students to name one thing they learned about plants and one thing they learned about animals.
- Invite a few students to share their drawings or observations with the class.

2. Extension Activity (Optional):

- If time allows, read a short story or book about plants and animals that reinforces the concepts covered in the lesson.
- **Example:** "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle or "Jack and the Beanstalk" for a plant-based story.

Assessment

- **Formative Assessment:** Observe students during activities and discussions to assess their understanding of plant and animal parts and needs.

- **Summative Assessment:** Review students' drawings of plants and their participation in the "Animal Needs" chart.

Differentiation

- **Support:** Provide additional verbal explanations and hands-on support for students who need it.
- **Extension:** Challenge advanced students to think of more complex needs of animals or identify additional plant types.

Follow-Up

- **Home Activity:** Ask students to observe a plant or animal at home and draw or write about its parts and what it needs to stay healthy.

This lesson plan is designed to engage Year 1 students with interactive and visual activities that align with the UK Key Stage 1 science curriculum.
