

Camp Paws and Claws & Farm Animals

Summary

This 3-day activity reinforces what students have learned about animals. The activities focus on farm animals: cows, pigs, hens and ducks.

Additional Core Ties

English Language Arts Kindergarten

[Reading: Literature Standard 1](#)

English Language Arts Kindergarten

[Speaking and Listening Standard 1 a.](#)

Group Size

Large Groups

Materials

- [Cow](#)
- [Three Little Pig Houses](#)
 - Hay or raffia
 - Pretzel sticks
 - Red construction paper
 - Tubs
 - Drawing paper
 - Crayons
 - Pencils
 - Craft stick
- *Animal Badges*
 - Paper vest
 - Science Journals
 - Student lab coats
 - Black Bingo marker
 - Cow models
 - Large jar
 - Marble
 - Whipping cream
- [Mrs. Wishy Washy Characters](#)
 - Brown paint
 - Crisco
 - Feathers

Background for Teachers

Camp Paws and Claws is a three-part activity that reinforces what students have learned throughout the year about animals. For this particular activity, students will learn about farm animals. They will learn about cows, pigs, hens, and ducks. Camp Paws and Claws provides several activities for students to earn badges for each animal. As the teacher, you can decide if students should complete all activities or only some.

Camp Paws and Claws can be done as a whole class or broken up into centers. If camp activities are

broken up into centers, you should thoroughly explain each activity to the children. Also, you should provide written or picture instructions based on the needs of your students.

Prior to teaching Camp Paws and Claws, teachers should give an overview of the farm animals-- ducks, pigs, cows, and hens. Students should be able to discuss realistic and unrealistic behaviors of farm animals, what adult and baby animals are called, identify and discuss various parts of farm animals, identify which animals live on a farm, and identify initial sounds of words.

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Observe, describe, draw, and compare familiar animals.
2. Describe how young animals are different from adult animals.
3. Observe and imitate the sounds and movements of animals with songs, dances, and storytelling.
4. Distinguish between real and make-believe animal behaviors.

Instructional Procedures

Invitation to Learn

Sing *Old McDonald Had A Farm* as a class. Discuss the various animals that can be on a farm and the sounds they make.

Instructional Procedures

Group students into four small groups or complete activities as a class. Each animal will have a tub with all materials necessary to complete the activities to earn the badge. Explain all activities to children prior to allowing them to go to the centers. In each tub keep an example so that students know what to do.

Cows

Have the students read the book *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*.

Make a cow puppet. On cardstock, print the Cow master and have students cut it out. Using a black Bingo marker, put the black spots on the cow. Attach the cow to a craft stick or a paper bag. When puppet is finished, have a group orally tell a story using their cow puppets. The story can have realistic and unrealistic cow behaviors.

Read, *Animal Babies*, the section on cows. In the tub have three-dimensional models of a mother cow and her baby. Have the students draw a picture of a cow and calf in their Science Journal.

When they are finished, they may cut out and color the cow badge and glue it to their vest.

Pigs

Have the students read the book, *Three Little Pigs*. Have the students as a group orally sequence the events in the story. Make sure they discuss the order in which the homes were built in and what materials were used to build the houses. The teacher or another adult should be rotating the room and listening to the discussion of students to determine level of understanding.

The Little Pig House Activity. Decorate the three houses the pigs made and write what material the house was made from. The first house is made of hay and students use hay or raffia to cover the house. The second house is made of sticks and students will use pretzel sticks to cover the house. The third house is bricks and students will use red construction paper rectangles and a triangle to cover the house. In the pig tub the teacher should include the words: hay, sticks, and bricks on cards. Students will practice using initial sounds to determine which word goes with what house.

In *Animal Babies*, read the section on piglets. Have students orally identify the various parts of a piglet with a friend.

When all activities are complete, the children may color and cut out their pig badge.

Hens

Read the book, *Little Red Hen*. Orally discuss with a friend ways they can be helpful at home and school.

Make butter. This activity needs an adult present and should be done as a whole class. Have the students put on their "lab coats". Lab coats are men's long sleeve dress shirts (or even short sleeved will work). Have the students use their science journals to determine what would happen if they mix cream and a marble in a jar. Have the students either draw a picture or write in their science journals what they predict will happen. Discuss with the students what cream is and where it comes from. The process of making butter takes 20-30 minutes. When the butter is finished, you will need to add salt to taste. Have the students all take turns and shake the jar. Explain that you need everyone to help in order for it to be successful. If one person tried to do it their arms would get very tired. Then, discuss as a class how the little red hen could have had an easier time if all the animals had helped her.

Give students a piece of white and wheat bread to use to sample the butter with. Graph which they liked better using their name on a yellow post-it note. The graph can be drawn on the board and as a class discuss the results of your graph.

Have the students write a post card home telling their parents about making butter. Give each student a quarter sheet of construction paper. On one side they will draw a picture about farm animals. On the other side they will tell their parents about making butter. Have them fill out their science journals again with their results if they were right or wrong about their predictions. This can be done with words or pictures depending on the ability of the student.

Students can then color and cut out their hen badge.

Duck

Read *Mrs. Wishy Washy*. As a group review the order of the animals in the story orally and with pictures.

Create a craft stick puppet for each animal. The puppet will be two sided. On one side the animal will be clean and on the other side the students will finger paint brown mud on the animal.

Have the students retell the events of the story with their puppets. They should show the correct side of the puppet while retelling the story.

Feather Science Experiment. This is an activity for the whole class and an adult is needed. If possible, collect feathers from ducks. Place the feathers in water and show how the feather does not absorb water. In the science journals have the students write or draw the reason they feel a ducks' feathers do not get wet when in water. Tell the students that duck's feathers have a special coating that allows them to stay dry. Take regular feathers and place them in water. The feathers get very wet. Allow the students to use Crisco to cover the regular feathers to simulate the protective coating and place the feathers in water. Allow them time to explain what they learned to you. Have them record their results in the science journal.

When finished, have the students color and cut out their duck badge.

Extensions

Curriculum Extensions/Adaptations/ Integration

Have them write sentences or phrases in their science journals instead of just pictures.

Pair up an advanced student with a student who struggles to provide them assistance.

Each animal includes several activities. As a teacher you can decide to do all activities or select one that you feel would be best for your students.

Family Connections

Have the parents write a postcard to their child to bring back to school the next day. The children will be taking home a postcard about making butter, and their parents write them a note and bring it to school the next day.

Retell the story of Mrs. Wishy Washy.

Have them tell their parents about ducks' feathers and the coating that protects them from getting wet.

Assessment Plan

Collect and assess science journals at the end of the day.

Have the students retell the story of Mrs. Wishy Washy using their puppets.

Observe students and their reactions as you complete the Duck Feather Experiment. Ask questions to determine understanding and thinking during the process.

Discuss various farm animals with the students and have them tell you what they have learned.

Bibliography

Research Basis

Church, E. (2003). Scientific thinking: step-by-step. *Scholastic Early Childhood Today*. 6(4) 35-41.

In the primary grades, children are learning about science and the world. Science skills--observe, compare, sort, organize, predict, experiment, evaluate and apply are essential to their learning. It is important for students to understand the process involved with experimenting in science.

LeVine, J. (2002). Teaching ideas: writing letters to support literacy. *The Reading Teacher*. 56 (3) 232-239.

The more students write the more proficient they become. A simple daily message can include daily activities or another message to the students will enable children to read some of the message early in the school year.

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