

Science Y1 Spring 1 – Animals including humans

In this unit of work, the children will find and classify animals in the school environment. They will look closely at features of animals through photographs, film, and first-hand experience. They will make detailed observational drawings and label them. They will sort and group animals in several different ways.

In this unit children will:

Identify and name a variety of common animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores.

Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals – fish, amphibians, birds, reptiles, and mammals including pets.

Sort and group animals using similarities and differences.

Use first hand close observations to make detailed drawings of animals.

Describe key features of an animal on a labelled picture/diagram

Talk to pet owners about what they feed their animals - write a question and find out the answer

Use secondary sources to research into the structure of animals e.g., the number of bones, does the structure of the animal determine what it eats?

Key Vocabulary

Invertebrates – A creature that does not have a backbone.

Vertebrates – Animals that have a backbone.

Cold blooded – A body temperature that changes according to the surroundings.

Warm-Blooded – A high body temperature which does not change much and is not affected by the surrounding temperature.

Environment – All of the circumstances, people, things around you that influences your life.

Mammals – A warm blooded animal which has fur, gives birth to, and feeds their young with milk.

Carnivore – Animals that eat other animals.

Herbivore – Animals that eat plants.

Omnivore – Animals that eat both plants and meat.

Prior Learning

EYFS - Explore the natural world around them. Describe what they see, hear, and feel whilst outside

Cross Curricular Links

RE – Caring for the world

Geography – Hot and cold countries including animals which live in them

Key Knowledge

Some common carnivores are lions, tigers, and brown bears.

Some common herbivores are cows, sheep, and rabbits.

Some common omnivores are humans, pigs, and rats.

Vertebrates are animals which have a backbone. There are 5 groups of vertebrates – mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

Invertebrates are animals which don't have a backbone. These include insects such as flies, ladybirds, and bees; arachnids such as spiders and molluscs such as snails.

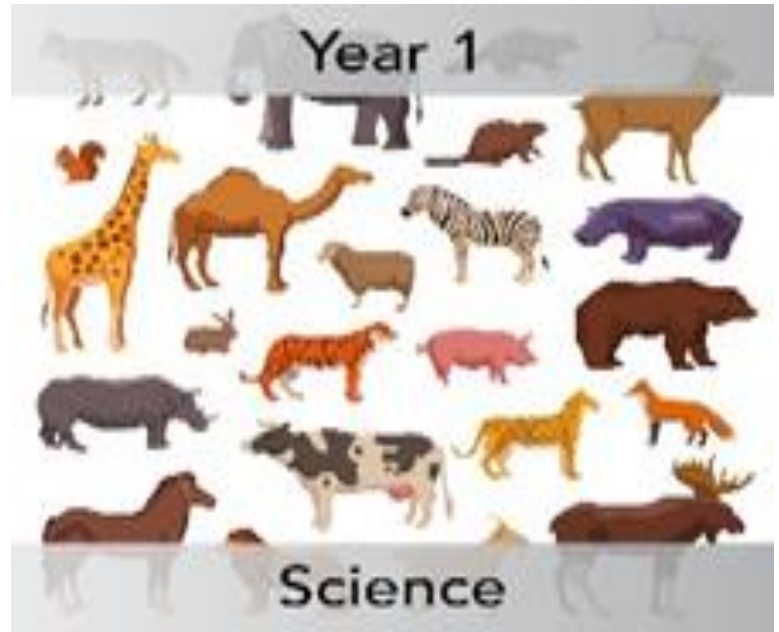
Amphibians are cold blooded, they lay eggs, live on land and water – can breathe underwater through gills. Some amphibians are frogs and toads.

Reptiles are cold blooded, lay eggs, have scales, and cannot breathe underwater.

They include snakes and lizards.

Birds are warm blooded, have wings, feathers and beaks and lay eggs. They include ducks, chickens, penguins, and pigeons.

Fish have fins and scales, breathe underwater using gills, lay eggs in water and are cold blooded. They include cod, salmon, and tuna.



Mammals give birth to young, usually have hair or fur, are warm blooded. They include humans, dogs, cats, cows, sheep, lions, and giraffes.

Key Questions

What do fish, reptiles and birds have in common?

Which of these is not a suitable pet ...?

What do they call an animal that only eats meat?

What can reptiles not do?