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A Lesson on Animal Studies by Lindsey Morlan

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Vocabulary, Reading, Comprehension, Insects, Animals, Nature

Lesson Description: This lesson provides the following skills: vocabulary, critical thinking, and reading comprehension. Students will read a short passage individually. Students will then answer the following questions. Teacher will discuss and summarize after completed by students.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Animal Studies

by

Content: Animals are wonderful. If you look closely at how they live, you will find many surprises. It is hard to look closely at insects, because they are very small. Plus, many of them fly away when you come near. But if you have a chance to watch them, you will discover how they live. Watching animals is a job that scientists do, called making observations. They have learned a lot about animals.

Scientists learn about tiny animals, and they have studied insects. They found that insects have tools, and they use those tools to survive. For example, they learned about the sawfly. This is just one animal they have studied.

They call it the sawfly because it possesses a kind of saw. It's not a real saw, but it resembles one, and it works like one. It is actually a part of the sawfly's anatomy. The sawfly uses the saw to make places where the eggs will be safe. It saws at plants in order to create a space where eggs can go. Afterward, the sawfly does something very special. It makes a sort of homemade glue that fastens the eggs where they are laid. We are not exactly sure how it does that, but if you can watch the sawfly you will see this happen.

Some insects have cutting instruments that work in a similar way as scissors. The poppy-bee is one of these insects. It is a bee that makes its home in wood. This bee has a boring tool, and it uses the tool to bore into old wood. It looks like a tool that a carpenter might use. Carpenters make things out of wood, and like carpenters, poppy-bees make their nests out of wood.

In addition to insects, scientists observe birds, too. They have studied birds using their bills in order to get what they need. Some birds use their bills to cut into wood. They have sharp bills, and are able to cut a hole in a tree. So, they will use their sharp bills to drill a hole to get inside the tree where insects live, and then they eat the insects.

Every animal is amazing. Even dogs and cats can surprise you. The more you observe animals, the more you will learn. Nature is full of surprises. Every part of every animal has a purpose. Scientists learn more about them every day. Nature is a wonderful part of our world.

Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: resembles **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "It's not a real saw, but it resembles one, and it works like one." What does the word "resemble" mean in this sentence?

- A: similar
- B: different
- C: puts together
- D: opposite

Question: Which sentence below correctly uses the word "resemble"?

- A: I resemble my sister, we look so different.
- B: My mom and brother resemble each other, they have a lot of the same features.
- C: His hair is blonde and her hair is black, look at the resemblance.
- D: My sisters are twins but don't like the same foods. Their tastes resemble each other.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: bore **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "This bee has a boring tool, and it uses the tool to bore into old wood." What does the word "bore" mean in this sentence?

- A: excite
- B: dull
- C: drill
- D: burn

Question: Which sentence correctly uses the word "bore"?

- A: I bored the candle for some light.
- B: I wanted to bore the crowd, so I started to do some magic tricks.
- C: The man bored into the ground to get the tree stump up.
- D: None of the above.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: observation **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "observation" mean in the sentence, "Watching animals is a job that scientists do, called making observations."?

- A: rules
- B: plans
- C: lessons
- D: monitoring

Question: Which sentence correctly uses the word "observation"?

- A: I like to sit and observe the ants crawl by.
- B: The teacher made so many observations today, we cannot even get up without asking.
- C: The teacher made backup observations, in case the original lessons need to be changed.
- D: None of the above.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: studied **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "Scientists learn about tiny animals, and they have studied insects." What does the word "studied" mean in this sentence?

- A: killed
- B: rejected
- C: examined
- D: ignored

Question: Which sentence correctly uses the word "study"?

- A: I studied the ant, by smashing it.
- B: She did not want me in her class so she studied me.
- C: All the girls were talking about Emily and turned away and studied her when she tried to talk to them.
- D: I need to study if I want to get a good grade on my test.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Insect Tools

What does the author mean when he says insects have tools? Give examples of some of the tools.

2 - Scientist Job

From this article, describe what the job of a scientist is. Give details from the text.

3 - Nature

In the last paragraph the author talks about nature, what is nature?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Describe your encounters with insects and animals. Have you ever observed their tools, or seen them build their home? Use detail and relate to the passage.

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