



## A Lesson on Animal Studies by Erica Wormser

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, writing, animals, survival, insects, science

**Lesson Description:** This lesson discusses how animals survive with the tools they were born with. By reading and rereading the passage closely, and focusing their reading through a series of questions and discussion about the text, students will identify how and why animals need and use tools. When combined with writing about the passage, students will discover how much they learn from this passage.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.6: Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

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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.

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## 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:** possesses **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** "They call it the sawfly because it possesses a kind of saw." What does the word "possesses" mean in this sentence?

- A: plays with
- B: have as belonging to one; own
- C: of a demon or spirit, especially an evil one
- D: steals

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "possesses" correctly?

- A: The drug possesses the potential to suppress tumors.
  - B: He thought he was possessed by devils.
  - C: The homeless man was acting possessed.
  - D: He was possessed by envy.
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**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?

- A: unamused
- B: dig
- C: give birth
- D: have

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "bore" correctly?

- A: Over the course of her 24 years in the dungeon, Elisabeth bore seven children.
  - B: I don't want to bore you to death.
  - C: He used a drill to bore a hole in the cabinet.
  - D: Neither of them bore any resemblance to Brandon.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** sawfly **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** "It is actually a part of the sawfly's anatomy." What does the word "sawfly" mean in this sentence?

- A: a kind of fish
- B: a kind of fly
- C: a kind of bird
- D: a kind of snake

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "sawfly" correctly?

- A: The sawflies are 50% off at the department store today.
  - B: I sawed the limb off with the sawfly.
  - C: I studied the sawfly as it bounced from leaf to leaf.
  - D: Sawflies can run very fast.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** boring tool **WordPhraseTier:** 3

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

- A: A kind of tree
- B: A tool that is boring, and not fun to use.
- C: A tool used to bore into something like wood.
- D: A kind of vehicle

**Question:** Which one of the sentence below uses the word "boring tool" correctly?

- A: The boring tool helps the bee bore into the wood.
  - B: That is such a boring tool.
  - C: The boring tool is great on gas.
  - D: Boring tools grow up to 50 feet tall.
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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 - How do you think the sawfly makes its "homemade glue?"

The sawfly makes a homemade glue to keep the eggs fastened together when they are laid. How do you think the sawfly makes this glue? There is no right or wrong answer.

### 2 - Do you think all animals need tools to survive?

Do you think animals have to be born with tools or can they make and adapt their own tools from nature?

### 3 - Poppy-bees are like carpenters

Why does the author compare the poppy-bee to a carpenter?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** For your writing assignment, think about the tools the?insects use?to survive?(sawfly sawing at plants to place eggs in) and in 2-3 paragraphs (minimum 200?words) explain why you think all animals need tools to survive and what kind of tools humans were born with to help them survive.?Submit your assignment using the box below.

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