



What's Wild?

Science – Grade 1-3

Students sort living and nonliving pictures and move on to sort wild and tame animals.

Materials:

- Cut out pictures of living and nonliving things
- 2 pieces of butcher paper (one labeled “living” and one “nonliving”)
- Plush and/or plastic animals (domesticated and wild)
- 3 baskets for sorting

Instructions:

1. Begin the discussion by talking about classification and sorting. Tell children that scientists classify things according to the ways they are the same. Today, the children will get to play scientists and classify some items in their world.
2. Hand out pictures of living and nonliving things. Talk about the differences between living and nonliving things. Have children paste their pictures on the correct piece of butcher paper.
3. Have children look at the “living” piece of butcher paper. What kinds of items do they see (plants, animals)? What makes these things living?
4. Have a discussion about the plants on the “living” paper. Talk about how plants make their own food from sunlight, soil, air and water. Talk about how plants can't move.
5. Circle all animals on the living paper. Talk about things they have in common. They can move, they need food, water and shelter. They can have babies. They can grow and change.
6. Next, discuss how the animals get their food. Children will conclude that pets (tame or domesticated animals) rely on people to get their food. Wild animals, on the other hand, get their own food, water, and shelter.
7. Clarify the difference between domesticated and wild.
8. Hand out stuffed animals and/or plastic figures of animals and have them sort in baskets (Wild, Domesticated, or Both). When it's difficult to distinguish whether an animal is wild or domesticated, think in terms of what is usually the case.