

K-5 Science Ideas with Today's News

Kindergarten

- * Clip animal pictures from the newspaper for a week (to a month). Make up different ways to categorize the animals.
- * Find examples of basic needs in the newspaper: Food, air, water, and shelter. Can you find any examples that are appropriate for animals?
- * Look at pictures in the newspaper that represent each of our five senses (for example a flower for "smell," a sunset for "sight," etc. - as long as the student has a good reason to choose a picture). Compare and contrast how humans and animals use senses. How would an animal sense the objects chosen by the student?
- * Find pictures of animals in the paper. Evaluate whether the animals chosen would make good pets or not. (If you can't find pictures of animals in the news today, or even if you can, the teacher may want to read the pets section of the Classified Ads.)
- * Find examples of objects that come from animals - such as leather shoes made from cow hide.
- * Find pictures of animals that people rely on for food, clothing, companionship, transportation, work, etc.
- * Clip animal pictures from the paper for a week (or a month). Classify the animals as wild or domestic.
- * Look for examples of summer clothing, fall clothing and winter clothing in newspaper ads. What do animals do to adapt to different seasons? Is there anything people can do to help them?
- * Read and chart the weather for a week or two. Discuss if the weather is typical for the season.

First Grade

- * Discuss how news about water will impact people, plants and animals.
- * Look at the pictures in the newspaper of people or animals involved in activities. Discuss whether the activities could only be done in certain weather or seasons.
- * Make a collage showing how people and animals adapt to weather changes, using pictures and words cut from the newspaper.

Second Grade

- * Look for signs, in the newspaper, that a change of seasons is coming.
- * Find examples in the newspaper of how people adapt to seasonal changes.
- * Look in the newspaper for things people need to take care of babies and young children. Are any people needs shared by animals?
- * Find pictures of plants and animals in the newspaper. Identify, if possible, the stage of the life cycle of each plant or animal pictured.

Third Grade

- * Cut pictures of scenes from the newspaper. For each picture, answer the following:
What kind of habitat is pictured?
What elements of the habitat are living? What elements are non-living?

K-5 Science Ideas, p. 2

Could animals live there? What kinds of animals would do best?

Are there any animals that could not live there?

* Cut a picture of a food you like (or don't like) from the newspaper. Paste the picture to the top of a piece of paper. Below, write about how it came to be in the form pictured - trace its beginnings back to the sun.

Fourth Grade

* Find a news story about someone or something that is adapting to a new home.

* From places mentioned in world news, choose a city or area that is on another continent. Imagine that a local animal, such as the Rocky Mountain Elk, is being transplanted to the area you chose. Use your imagination to

write a short news article (add an illustration, if you like) describing its new habit and adaptations it will have to make to survive there.

* Do some research to learn about plants or animals that used to live in your state, but have become extinct. What might have caused their extinction? Can you find an example of a similar event or action in the newspaper?

* Scan the Classified Ads section of a daily newspaper. How many different classifications are in the Classifieds? How many ads are there (estimate).

* Scan another paper dedicated only to advertisements. The ads in the daily newspaper are classified, many advertisement papers are not. What are the advantages or disadvantages of each?

* Why do scientists classify living things? How do they do it?

Fifth Grade

* Find a news story about people changing the environment. Write a brief paragraph summarizing the story.

Imagine that you visit the area impacted by the change ten years later. Write a short news story telling how the area has changed - for better or worse.

* Write a Letter To The Editor stating your opinion regarding human influences on plant and animal survival. If you can, give examples of actions people may take to improve.

School-To-Careers

* Invite someone who works with animals to visit your class. Possible guests include veterinarians, Humane Society volunteers, animal control workers, or pet store workers.

* Invite someone to visit your class who trains animals to do a job. Consider a K-9 officer from the police department or HAFB, or 4H volunteers who train seeing eye dogs, etc.

* Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Choose any animal you want. Design an ad selling the public on your animal's beautiful or unique/special qualities. Compare ads in today's newspaper to help you create a good ad.