

Animals Have Class

Pre-Program Activity

Grades 9-12



Objective: Students will classify animals based on their characteristics.

Sunshine State Standards:

- **SC.912.L.15.4** Describe how and why organisms are hierarchically classified and based on evolutionary relationships.
- **SC.912.L.15.6** Discuss distinguishing characteristics of the domains and kingdoms of living organisms.
- **MA.912.A.2.1** Create a graph to represent a real-world situation.

Overview: Students observe a natural area over several days and graph the different types of animals they observed.

Materials:

- 6-foot long piece of string for each student
- Copies of [Daily Observations](#) page
- Copies of [Observation Report](#)

Procedure:

- Give each student a 6-foot long piece of string. Take them to an outdoor area and instruct them to use their string to enclose a small area.
- Give students at least five minutes to observe the area within their string. Have them keep track of all the animals they see in their space on the Daily Observations page. Tell them to include animals on the ground as well as in trees or the air above the area they marked. Allow students to observe their area for 5 minutes each day for the next four days.
- Go over the characteristics of the following groups of animals:
 - Insects (Class: Insecta)
 - Arachnids (Class: Arachnida)
 - Annelids (Phylum: Annelida)
 - Isopods (Order: Isopoda)
 - Amphibians (Class: Amphibia)
 - Reptiles (Class: Reptilia)
 - Birds (Class: Aves)
 - Mammals (Class: Mammalia)
- Have students complete the Observation Report and discuss what they found in the areas they observed.

Extension:

- Allow students to continue observing their area over several weeks and observe the changes that take place.
- Have the students take pictures of the animals they see and use them to develop a local field guide.