Animals Have Class
Pre-Program Activity
Grades K-2

Objective: Students will classify animals into different groups based on their characteristics.

Sunshine State Standards:
- **SC.K.L.14.3** Observe plants and animals, describe how they are alike and how they are different in the way they look and in the things they do.
- **MA.K.A.1.1** Represent quantities with numbers up to 20, verbally, in writing, and with manipulatives.
- **SC.1.L.14.1** Make observations of living things and their environment using the five senses.
- **MA.1.A.2.3** Order counting numbers, compare their relative magnitudes, and represent numbers on a number line.
- **SC.2.L.17.1** Compare and contrast the basic needs that all living things, including humans, have for survival.

Overview: Students observe a natural area and then make a graph to show the different types of animals they saw.

Materials:
- Paper
- Pencils
- Copies of Animal Groups Bar Graph

Procedure:
- Take students to an outdoor area. Give them a minute to quietly observe the area and then ask them to name any wild animals that they can see (do not include people or classroom pets). Record their responses.
- Take the students back to the classroom. Go over the characteristics of each of the following groups of animals: invertebrates, amphibians, fish, reptiles, birds and mammals (see the Animals Have Class K-2 Curriculum Guide for information on each of these groups). Then go through the list of animals the students saw and have them tell you which group each one belongs to. List the animals in the appropriate categories.
- Hand out the graphs and show students how to color one square for each animal in each category to make a bar graph.
- When the graphs are finished, discuss with the students which group most of the animals they saw were from. Ask the students if they would expect to see more animals from the other groups in another area, and explain that there are many more invertebrates in the world than vertebrates.