



New Animal Discovery I

Research Objective: Conclusions

Description

Imagine you are a scientist who has just discovered a brand-new animal! Your job is to describe your animal, give it a name, and create clues that will help others figure out what real animal inspired your discovery.

Procedures

1. Look through the science magazines and find 3 adjectives you can use to describe your new animal. Record below.
2. Write 1 sentence for each adjective. Your sentences should give clues about your animal's appearance, habitat, or behavior without saying what real animal it is.
3. Keep it a secret! Do not tell anyone what real animal inspired your design.

What 3 adjectives did you pick?

Write one sentence for each adjective to describe your animal.

Materials

- Science-related magazines
- Pencil
- Crayons/markers/color pencils

Tips

- Use your adjectives: Let your three adjectives guide the way your animal looks and behaves.
- Think like a scientist: Add details that show where your animal lives, what it does, and how it survives.
- Get creative: There are no wrong answers. Use your imagination to create an animal that is unique!



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Bring your animal to life! Give your animal a unique name, then use your three adjectives to help you imagine, sketch, and design what your new animal looks like and how it might live.

Name your animal: _____



New Animal Discovery II

Research Objective: Conclusions

Description

Turn your animal drawing into a shadow puppet and present your discovery to the class. As your story is read aloud, your classmates will listen for clues and observe your animal's shadow. They will use this evidence to make a conclusion about what your animal might be. Like scientists, you will use observations and evidence from multiple sources to make and explain your conclusions.

Procedures

1. Create your puppet: Cut out your animal design from your drawing.
2. Attach your puppet: Use glue or tape to attach your animal to a craft stick.
3. When it is your turn, stand behind the sheet with your shadow puppet.
4. Listen for clues: Your instructor will read your animal story aloud like a nature documentary while the class watches the shadow.
5. Make a conclusion: Listen to the story and observe the shadow. Decide what you think the animal might be.
6. Share your evidence: Explain which clues and observations helped you make your conclusion.
7. Reveal the discovery: After everyone has made a guess, the scientist who created the animal will reveal its name and explain how they designed it.

Materials

- Paper for Drawing Animal
- Scissors
- Glue/Tape
- Craft Stick
- Sheet
- Flashlight

Tips

- Pay close attention to both the story and the shadow. Use clues from both sources of evidence to make your best conclusion about the animal!
- Don't worry if your first guess is wrong! Scientists use new evidence to change, improve, and strengthen their conclusions.

Instructor Notes

Set Up: Set up a flashlight or other light source and a sheet to create a shadow screen.

Facilitate: Have students cut out their animal designs and attach them to craft sticks. Invite students to present one at a time behind the screen. Read each student's story aloud in the style of a nature documentary while the class observes the animal's silhouette.

This portion is optional. Students can also show their drawings to the class and have them guess the adjectives used to create their new animal.*