



Watch That Rabbit!

Introduction

Observing animals in their environment helps students identify their basic needs. Comparing a pet rabbit to Peter Rabbit allows them to see that both have similar needs but achieve them in different ways. Pictures, charts and a Venn diagram will help the students visually organize the information.

Learning Outcomes

Ohio Standards

- Kindergarten # 4: Investigate variations that exist among individuals of the same kind of plant or animal.
- Kindergarten # 5: Investigate observable features of plants and animals that help them live in different kinds of places.
- Kindergarten # 6: Investigate the habitats of many different kinds of local plants and animals and some of the ways in which animals depend on plants and each other in our community.
- First Grade # 1: Explore that organisms, including people, have basic needs, which include air, water, food, living, space, and shelter.
- First Grade # 2: Explore that humans and other animals have body parts that help to seek, find, and take in food when they are hungry.
- First Grade # 3: Investigate that animals eat plants and/or other animals for food and may also use plants or other animals for shelter or nesting.

National Standards

As a result of activities in grades K-4, all students should develop understanding of:

- The characteristics of organisms
- Life cycles of organisms
- Organisms and environments

Getting Started

Materials

- Large chart paper with comparison chart predrawn
- Two hula hoops
- Camera or digital camera
- Markers
- Pictures of Peter Rabbit in his environment

Technology

Use the digital camera to record rabbit activities. The chart could also be created in Excel or another spreadsheet program for display on classroom monitor.

Vocabulary

- Basic needs
- Shelter
- Space
- Environment
- Observe
- Describe
- Identify
- Food

Lesson

Orientation Activity

- Borrow a pet rabbit, or use the class pet rabbit, to make observations for a week or so.
- During the week, have children watch the rabbit to find times that it is sleeping, eating, drinking, moving, etc. Make notes to yourself to use later.
- Record these in picture form using a camera or digital camera, or you might also have students draw pictures of the activities of the rabbit. Print these pictures and/or mount them onto construction paper.

Learning Activity

- Conduct a class discussion of the activities of the rabbit during the week. Talk about how often the children observed the rabbit doing each activity. Point out similar times of the day to see if a pattern developed. Organize the pictures onto a large chart into categories answering the following questions: When and what does the rabbit eat? When and what does the rabbit drink? Where does the rabbit live? What does the rabbit do? Discuss how the animal uses special body parts to meet its basic needs.
- Have pictures from Peter Rabbit representing Peter eating, drinking, sleeping, moving, etc. in his environment. Help the children place those pictures into the categories on the chart by discussing what clues they see in the pictures.
- Make comparisons between Peter Rabbit and the pet rabbit using the hula-hoops attached to a bulletin board or lying on the floor making a Venn diagram. Guide the children to place the pictures of the rabbits into the sections of the diagram of things that only Peter does, only the pet rabbit does, and what they both do. Talk about how and why they are similar and alike. Identify the basic needs of both animals, which should

end up in the overlapping section of the Venn diagram, air, food, water, shelter, and space to move.

Handouts

Observation chart

Evaluation and Follow-up

Assessment Tools and Methods

- Provide pictures for the students, to place on their own chart of activities that the pet rabbit and/or Peter Rabbit do throughout the day.
- Use symbols and words (for readers and non-readers) representing the basic needs at the top of each column for the students to place the pictures.

Interdisciplinary Connections

Math: Patterns of activities in natural world.

Language Arts: Description of activities, use of chart and Venn diagram.

OBSERVATION CHART

Observations	Pet Rabbit	Peter Rabbit
What and how does it eat ?		
What and how does it drink ?		
Where does it live ?		
What does it do ?		
Other ideas		