Whether fiction or non-fiction, most books featuring animals fascinate young readers. We share the world with so many amazing creatures and there’s something for everyone on a bookshelf filled with books about animals. Here’s hoping the readers in your life enjoy our focus this month.

This activity packet includes a selection of resources for educators, parents/caregivers, and students.

- **Booklist**: A recommended list of books about animals.
- **Puzzles and Activities for Students**: Resources about animals designed for independent student use.
- **Take-Home Activity**: An activity about animals designed to help students continue learning at home.
- **Classroom Activity**: An activity about animals designed for the classroom.

We suggest you print and copy the Take-Home Activity and Puzzles and Activities for Students pages and send them home to extend the learning.

For more reading resources, visit [www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central](http://www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central).

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book List</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory Match</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossword Puzzle</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhyme Time</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Searches</td>
<td>9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home Activity</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Activity</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Answer Keys</td>
<td>13-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Animals Book List

Recommended Books

- **Frog on a Log**
  Author: Kes Gray
  Illustrator: Jim Field
  PK-1

- **Wonderful Worms**
  Author: Linda Glaser
  Illustrator: Loretta Krupinski
  PK-1

- **Bark, George**
  Author and Illustrator: Jules Feiffer
  PK-3

- **Elmer**
  Author and Illustrator: David McKee
  PK-3

- **What Do You Do With a Tail Like This**
  Authors and Illustrators: Steve Jenkins and Robin Page
  PK-3

- **What If You Had Animal Feet?**
  Author: Sandra Markle
  Illustrator: Howard McWilliam
  PK-3

- **Not Norman**
  Author: Kelly Bennett
  Illustrator: Noah Z. Jones
  K-2

- **We’re Roaming in the Rainforest**
  Author: Laurie Krebs
  Illustrator: Anne Wilson
  K-3

- **Surprising Sharks**
  Author: Nicola Davies
  Illustrator: James Croft
  2-4

- **Charlotte’s Web**
  Author: E.B. White
  Illustrator: Garth Williams
  3-7
Memory Match

Cut along the lines to create vocabulary cards. Then, mix them up and turn them over. Flip two cards at a time, using your memory to try to find word pairs. Use each page separately for an easier version, or put all the cards together for a bigger challenge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mammals</th>
<th>mammals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pets</td>
<td>pets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creature</td>
<td>creature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>critter</td>
<td>critter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wildlife</td>
<td>wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insects</td>
<td>insects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Memory Match

Cut along the lines to create vocabulary cards. Then, mix them up and turn them over. Flip two cards at a time, using your memory to try to find word pairs. Use each page separately for an easier version, or put all the cards together for a bigger challenge.

- vertebrates
- zoology
- birds
- reptiles
- fish
- organisms

Powered by Reading is Fundamental until every child reads.
Answer clues based on the content and vocabulary words for the topic of Animals. Look for hints in the Word Bank.

**Down**

1. A slang word for an animal or pet.
2. Mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles are examples of ____.
4. The part of an animal's head containing the nose & jaw.
5. ____ have fins, gills, and scales.

**Across**

3. Seals & whales have flat limbs called ____.
6. The bills of birds.
7. The entire feet of a donkey or horse.
8. Cats, dogs, hamsters, fish, and birds are examples of ____.

**Word Bank**

- ANIMALS
- CRITTER
- FLIPPERS
- BEAKS
- PETS
- FISH
- HOOVES
- SNOOT
Crossword Puzzle (harder)

Name: ___________________________ Date: _______________________

Answer clues based on the content and vocabulary words for the topic of Animals. Look for hints in the Word Bank.

Across

2. ___ have gills, fins, and scales.
6. ___ can be dogs, cats, birds, fish, hamsters, and more!
7. ___ are scaly, cold-blooded animals who lay eggs.
9. Animals having a backbone are ___.
11. Most ___ give live birth to their young.
12. The science of biology dealing with animals is ___.

Word Bank

ANIMALS
MAMMALS
INSECTS
VERTEBRATES
PETS
FISH
INVERTEBRATES
BEASTS
REPTILES
ZOOLOGY
CRITTER
HUMANS

Down

1. Animals not having a backbone are ___.
3. ___ usually have three sets of legs and two sets of wings.
4. Large four-footed mammals.
5. A slang word for an animal or pet.
8. ___ are mammals.
10. ___ are a very important part of the world's ecosystems!
# Rhyme Time

Name: ___________________________ Date: ________________

Instructions: Each of these words is related to the theme. For each word, think of two words that rhyme. Write your rhyming words on the lines, like we did in the example.

**Example**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>creature</th>
<th>feature</th>
<th>teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pet</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bird</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tail</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insect</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zoology</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Word Search (easier)

Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Find the words in the list below.

R W L L T S B R L
W E W L L N I E F
C L A W S O R P U
R F E E T U D T F
I N S E C T S I I
T U A N I M A L S
T A I L S K J E H
E F H U M A N S Y
R F L I P P E R S

Word Bank

ANIMALS CRITTER INSECTS
FISH BIRDS REPTILES
HUMANS CLAWS TAILS
SNOUT FLIPPERS FEET
Word Search (harder)

Find the words in the list below.

O C F R T M E K D U S A I
B R M N L A F W W K S A N
I E S I K M I I T F W S V
R A A N I M A L S D P R E
D T R S Y A I D S H Y U R
S U B E T L K L K U D H T
E R V C P S E I T M W S E
N E A T E T S F N A M J B
U S A S F Y I E M N E U R
M P Y U V U T L O S D I A
B M E F L I P P E R S U T
E Z O O O L O G Y F S L B E
L N E K I D K N C L A W S

Word Bank

ANIMALS
CREATURES
FISH
HUMANS

MAMMALS
WILDLIFE
BIRDS
VERTEBRATES

BEASTS
INSECTS
REPTILES
INVERTEBRATES
Take-Home Activity

Animal Neighbors

Your child has been learning about animals at school and this activity is designed to extend the learning at home.

You don’t have to visit a zoo or aquarium to see lots of animals. Complete this activity with your child to recognize how many animals are sharing your very own neighborhood.

**STEPS:**

1. With your child, make a list of all the animals they predict they will see during a walk through the neighborhood.

2. Bring the list with you on a neighborhood walk and search for all the animals on the list. Keep track as you go.

3. After your walk, count up all the animals you found for a final tally.

4. Continue to notice new animals, add to your tally, and appreciate how many of them are sharing your neighborhood.
Classroom Activity

AniMashup

This activity is designed to be done independently or in pairs.

**STEPS**

1. Read a few books about vertebrates with your students. Take notes for your students on the board about the five classes of vertebrates (i.e., mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish) and the various parts they have (e.g., fur, webbed feet, scales, beaks, gills).

2. Tell students they will be designing an “AniMashup” – a new animal created by a unique assembly of various animal parts. Tell students they can play with size, color, texture, etc.

3. Have students plan and draw their AniMashup. During the planning stage, offer time for thinking, sketching, and discussion.

4. When their drawings are complete, ask them to name their AniMashup and write two or three adjectives that describe it (e.g., nice, fierce, funny, poisonous).

5. Post the drawings around the room for everyone to enjoy.

6. Extend the activity by having students compare two or more of the AniMashups, noting what similarities and differences they have.
ANSWER KEYS
Key: Word Search (easier)

Key: Word Search (harder)