ZOO SCHOOL

CLASSIFICATION

Teaching Ideas

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PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Take advantage of our free teacher familiarisation visits. Come and have a look around and familiarise yourself with the animals and activities on site.

Divide your students into groups and ask them to sort some typical classroom objects into different groups, based on their own ideas about how they should be grouped.

Perhaps they could look in more detail at the function of the spine and make a papier-mâché backbone.

Students could complete a mini project on a pet, exploring its classification and characteristics. For example, they could make a poster about a hamster labelling its significant features: diet, live young, fur etc.

DURING YOUR ZOO VISIT

Animal Talks
Attend one (or more) of our fascinating animal talks given by our expert zoo keepers. The talks are 15-20 minutes long and appropriate to all ages.

Animals
Naturally, all of our animals are relevant to the topic of animal classification. However, it may be interesting for students to look at a variety of classifications, make sure you visit Wings of Wonder, the Reptile House and the Big Zoo Animals.

Workshops
Book a 'Class of Classification' workshop with our Education Team for a chance to learn about the different features that are characteristic to vertebrates and invertebrates. The workshop offers students the opportunity to get up close and meet some of our smaller animals.

Contact the Education Team on: 01275 852606 for more details.

AFTER YOUR VISIT

Students can complete a mini project about the platypus, exploring its unusual features and how it defies the 'rules' of classification.

Students could make an 'animal classification flowchart'. They can then use this chart to test their classification skills.

Students make a presentation on an animal classification of their choice. In this presentation, they must describe the defining features of animals in this classification, as well as giving examples of animals that belong to this grouping.

Have students stand in a line with their backs to the teacher. The teacher sticks an animal picture to their back. The pupils are not supposed to know what their animal is but everyone else can see their picture. Pupils walk around the room and ask yes or no questions to each other to guess what animal is on their back. For classification, have them ask: am I a mammal?