

Fur, Feathers, Skin or Scales?

Interactive Animal Classification Activity

KNOWLEDGE

- Identify the different body covering types of different animals.
- Explain the importance and function of different body covering types.
- Be able to classify animals based on their differing body covering types.
- Identify the different features of birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, and amphibians.

ACTIVE

- Students use arts and crafts to show how different animals belong in different groups based on their body covering types.

TIME	GROUP SIZE	LOCATION	GRADE LEVEL	EQUIPMENT
As long or short as you'd like.	Individual or as a Class	Classroom	K-2	Paper Markers Nature magazines

DEBRIEF/REFLECTIVE COMPONENT

- What is the importance and function of different body covering types?
- Discuss the different features of birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, and amphibians.
- Discuss why different groups of animals have different body covering types.

HELPFUL TIPS

- This activity can be presented in a variety of ways, which you can choose from depending on the needs of your class.

OCEAN LITERACY PRINCIPLES

1 – The Earth has one big ocean with many features.

- a. The ocean is the defining physical feature on our planet Earth – covering approximately 70% of the planet's surface. There is one ocean with many ocean basins, such as the North Pacific, South Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic.

5 – The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

- a. Ocean life ranges in size from the smallest living things, microbes, to the largest animal on Earth, blue whales.
- c. Most of the major groups that exist on Earth are found exclusively in the ocean and the diversity of major groups of organisms is much greater in the ocean than on land.
- e. The ocean provides a vast living space with diverse and unique ecosystems from the surface through the water column and down to, and below, the seafloor. Most of the living space on Earth is in the ocean.

Setup

1. On a large piece of paper, write the words 'Fur', 'Feathers', 'Scales', and 'Skin' in 4 rows.
2. Look through the pictures in nature magazines, either individually or as a class.
3. Put a tally mark by the appropriate body covering each time an animal comes up and fits into that group.
4. Discuss the results with the class.
5. Have students create animals using art supplies with a variety of textures.
6. Ask them to describe their animals to the class and explain why their body coverings are important, and the functions of the different types of coverings.
7. Divide the students into groups and give each group a large sheet of paper or posterboard which is divided into quarters with the headings 'Mammals', 'Birds', 'Reptiles', 'Fish' and 'Amphibians'.
8. Have students draw or cut and paste animals into their appropriate grouping.
9. Create an activity sheet where students draw a bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian.
10. What features do these animals have?
11. Put a check mark in the appropriate boxes (fur, skin, feathers, scales, gills, beak, fins, and claws)