

Animal Groups



Groups of penguins are called COLONIES

NIGHT AT THE AQUARIUM:

<http://gp.com/nature/video.html>

This one-minute video clip from Georgia-Pacific showcases the after-hours antics of the animals at the Georgia Aquarium. While every mammal is an individual, they're usually found in groups that work together to ensure survival. Like other mammals, humans need to work together to conserve resources.

Next Generation Science Standard

Social Interactions and Group Behavior, 3-LS2-1

Being part of a group helps animals obtain food, defend themselves and cope with changes. Groups may serve different functions and vary dramatically in size. Animals form groups to help members survive.

WORDS TO KNOW:

colonies: groups of penguins

pods: small groups of beluga whales

herds: groups of seals

INTRODUCING THE LESSON:

1. Ask students "Why do some mammals live in groups?" (*Some reasons include obtaining food, companionship and avoiding being someone else's meal.*) Brainstorm with students to make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of living in groups. (*Examples of advantages might be huddling together to stay warm, working as a group to find food sources and protection. Disadvantages may include increased sickness, visibility to predators and competition for food and mating.*)
2. Challenge students to look up the names of different animal groups. They'll be amazed at the variety! See below for some to spark their curiosity.
3. Wrap up by asking students "In what ways are mammals living in groups similar to you and your family?" (*Answers may include ideas like these: families protect one another, families work together to find food and one of my parents watches me while the other one is away to keep me safe.*)

DID YOU KNOW?

Amaze and amuse your students with these intriguing names for animal groups:

- A group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope.
- A group of kangaroos is called a mob.
- A group of sharks is called a shiver.
- A group of zebras is called a zeal.
- A group of owls is called a parliament.
- A group of jellyfish is called a smack.

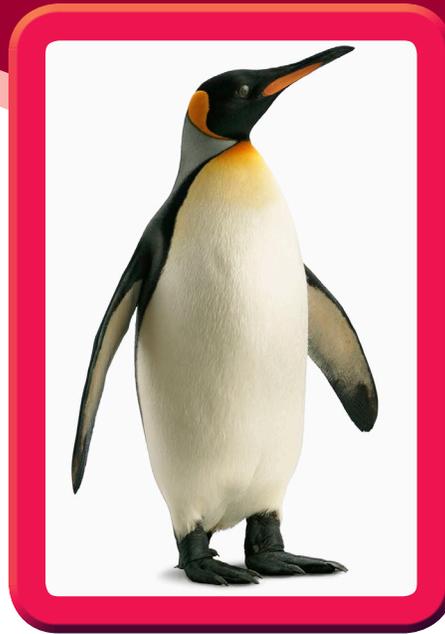
Animal Groups

All in the Family

Next Generation Science Standard

Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits, 3-LS3-1

Many characteristics of organisms are inherited from their parents.



ESTIMATED LESSON TIME:

40 minutes

TEACHER PREPARATION:

Bring in photos of your own family to display for the class discussion.

MATERIALS:

- sheet of chart paper
- marker
- family photos including parents, self and siblings

WORD TO KNOW:

inherited traits: characteristics passed down from parents to offspring

LESSON:

1. Share your family photos with the class. Ask the students to examine the photos and point out physical traits that might have been passed down from one of your parents to you or your siblings. Record the students' observations on a chart labeled "Inherited Traits."
2. Explain that inherited traits are characteristics passed down from parents to offspring. These traits might be hair color, facial features, height, skin color and so forth.
3. Ask the class the question "If siblings have the same parents, why don't they always look alike?" Explain that each person's mixture of genes differs from everyone else's. No two people are exactly alike. For example, even identical twins have different fingerprints. Discuss the following questions:
 - How do your students look like their parents? Grandparents? Siblings?
 - Which traits do students think might be inherited from their parents? Why do they think so?
 - What are some inherited traits that animals pass from parents to offspring?

Extend the Lesson:

Invite students to bring in pictures of their own families, including parents, grandparents and siblings. Allow time for students to identify inherited traits shown. For students who are adopted or do not have photos available, gather photos of animals and their offspring and study them to identify inherited traits.

PERFECT PARENTS

Cut out the penguin pictures below. Use the inherited traits listed below to help each penguin find its family.

<p style="text-align: center;">Emperor Penguin</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; height: 150px;"> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 150px; height: 150px;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 150px; height: 150px;"></div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> black head, chin and throat broad yellow patches on each side of head 	<p style="text-align: center;">Ade'lie Penguin</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; height: 150px;"> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 150px; height: 150px;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 150px; height: 150px;"></div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> black head distinctive white eye rings
<p style="text-align: center;">Gentoo Penguin</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; height: 150px;"> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 150px; height: 150px;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 150px; height: 150px;"></div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> black head with white eyelids distinctive white patch above each eye, usually extending over the head 	<p style="text-align: center;">Rockhopper Penguin</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; height: 150px;"> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 150px; height: 150px;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 150px; height: 150px;"></div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> orange or yellow feather crests on the sides of the head above the eyes



Next Generation Science Standard 3-LS3-1

© 2013 Georgia Pacific. Text and design by The Education Center, LLC

DID YOU KNOW?

The Georgia Aquarium is leading a first-ever study of the health of free-ranging African penguins.

