



Why?

By Lila Prap

Before Reading:

- On the board or on posted butcher paper, write, “What we think we know about hyenas, zebras, whales, rhinos, camels, crocodiles, giraffes, kangaroos, hippos, lions, snakes, walruses, monkeys, elephants.” Ask students to share what they think they know about each animal. Write what they have said on the paper. (Leave space at the bottom of the paper for a post-reading activity.)

As You Read:

- Have children share their own answers to the questions posed.

After Reading:

- On the posted butcher paper, draw a line below what the students thought they knew and write, “What we learned about (each animal) ...” Reread the factual paragraphs about each animal, and have students share what they learned about that animal.

Activities:

Class Why? Book

- Assign each child an animal to draw. For younger ones, provide them with a picture to color.
- Ask them to pose a question about their animal. Write the question at the top of the paper. (Choose animals different from the ones in the book.) At the bottom or around the edge, have the child write or dictate an answer. Example: “Why do pigs squeal?” “Because they want more food.”
- Laminate all of the pages, and bind into a class book. Keep in your class library for kids to read.

Paper Plate Animal Faces

- Cut out the center of the paper plate so the child’s face will show through. Using construction paper, decorate the edge to look like a lion’s mane or the stripes on a zebra’s face or some other animal shown in the book.

Create a New Animal

- Show children the end papers of the book and point out that some of the animals are mixed up. There is a “snakamel”, a “walmonkey”, a “giraffaroo”, etc. Have children create their own combinations of animals. They can be drawn, painted, or you can xerox different animals from coloring pages that the children can color, cut and glue together. You could even use animal magazines for students to cut out parts from different animals and create new ones by gluing the parts together!