

Opening Activity: Test Your Animal Knowledge

How well do you know these animals? Let’s put your knowledge to the test! Read each statement below. Check “TRUE” if the statement is true or “FALSE” if the statement is false.

.....

TRUE	FALSE
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- 1. Rats love to be tickled, and they make chirping noises similar to the sounds that we make when we giggle.
- 2. Cows play games, and some choose their best friends when they’re very young.
- 3. Pigs like to play games.
- 4. Hens sing a cheerful song to their chicks while they’re still inside the shell.
- 5. Elephants mourn their dead relatives by touching and holding their bones.
- 6. Dogs’ sense of smell is thousands of times better than humans’, and they can smell smoke before smoke detectors can detect it.
- 7. Cheetahs are twice as fast as the world’s top human runners.
- 8. Birds migrate hundreds of miles over oceans and even through storms without getting lost.
- 9. Octopuses and squids change color to communicate.
- 10. In the ocean, orca mothers and their calves travel together for their entire lives. ...

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ANIMALS ARE LIKE US



The Golden Rule and You

Introduction

We can each make choices to ensure that we treat animals with compassion and respect at all times—and we can encourage others to do the same. The “Golden Rule” that we try to follow in our relationships with other people should also apply to our relationships with animals.

Procedure

Cut out the cards on the next page with examples of situations in which the Golden Rule is not being applied to animals. Have students form small groups, and distribute one card to each group. Ask them to discuss the following:

- How the situation fails to live up to the Golden Rule
- How they would change it to make it follow the Golden Rule
- How the situation reminds them of an experience from their own life

Have each group share their responses with the whole class.

Common Core Supplemental Activity

Since “The Golden Rule and You” activity will most likely spark significant memories and help students make connections to experiences from their own lives, it can be used to inspire personal narrative writing. Have students use the writing prompt below to create their own personal narrative.

Personal Narrative Writing Prompt

“Think about a time when you became aware of a situation in which the Golden Rule was not being applied to an animal. Explain how the situation failed to live up to the Golden Rule and what you did in that situation. What would you do next time or encourage others to do?”

Here are some options for mini-lessons to target specific skills and help students develop their writing:

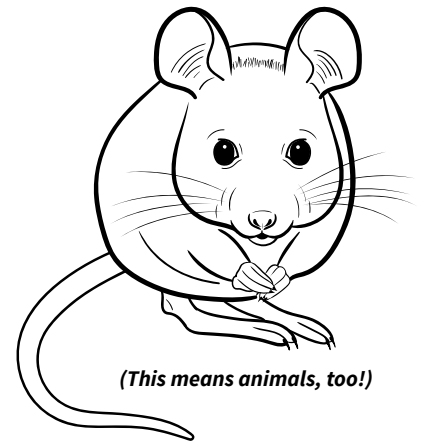
- Use a storyboard as a pre-writing activity. (Create a logical sequence of events visually.)
- Establish the situation. (Describe the setting and the challenging situation that the animal is in.)
- Introduce the characters. (Include humans and animals.)
- Add descriptive details. (Help the reader understand how the animal feels in that situation.)
- Use transitional words and phrases. (Tie your ideas together so that the reader clearly understands the sequence of events.)
- Create purposeful dialog. (Show what the animal characters are thinking or feeling about their situation.)
- Provide a sense of closure. (Send a message to the reader in your own words explaining how you interpret the Golden Rule and how to speak up for animals.)

Common Core Standards Addressed

W.3–5.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

SL.3–5.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

**“TREAT OTHERS
THE WAY YOU WANT
TO BE TREATED.”**



(This means animals, too!)

You see someone hitting a cat for making a mess on the carpet.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

You see many people hurry past a bird with a broken wing who has fallen onto a busy sidewalk.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

On your way to and from school, you notice a dog on a short chain, with no food or water in sight.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

While walking in the woods, your best friend finds and takes home a turtle.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

There is a petting zoo at your friend's birthday party, and animals are being handled and surrounded by lots of strangers.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

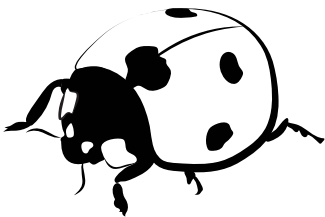
Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

Name_____ Date_____

Personal Narrative: _____

Think about a time when you became aware of a situation in which the Golden Rule was not being applied to an animal. Explain how the situation failed to live up to the Golden Rule and what you did in that situation. What would you do next time or encourage others to do?

“TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED.”



Rescue Story: Christmas the Puppy's First Holiday

Key Vocabulary

severe	serious
adopt	make someone part of the family
breeder	someone who makes animals have babies to sell them
spayed/neutered	prevented from having babies with an operation

In a poor village in the Philippines, PETA Asia staffers found a puppy named Christmas who had lice and two infected wounds on his back. He was in bad shape, but what happened next changed his life forever.

Christmas was taken to a clinic. There, he received treatment, but his condition was **severe**. He probably wouldn't have survived if left on the island, and his owners knew that. They agreed to give him to PETA so he could receive the extra treatment he needed, and his journey back to health began.



As soon as he got better, Christmas was **adopted** and is now loving life—and ready to celebrate his first holiday season with his new family. Gone are the days of fighting for scraps of food just to survive. He now spends his time playing with the other dogs in his family, Zoey, Maya, and Thor. And he has gone from not knowing what a toy was to having more toys than he knows what to do with!

Even though puppies, kittens, and other small animals are cute, they aren't toys and should never be bought or given as gifts. Taking care of an animal is a big responsibility that can last for many years. If you and your family have room in your hearts and home to care for an animal, please adopt. Never buy from a **breeder** or a pet store, and always have your animal companions **spayed** or **neutered**. As long as pet stores sell animals from breeders, healthy animals living in shelters won't find homes.

Comprehension Questions: Christmas the Puppy's First Holiday

1. What was wrong with Christmas when PETA Asia staffers found him?
2. Why did Christmas' owners agree to give him to PETA?
3. How do you think Christmas felt before being rescued and then afterward? What makes you think so?
4. What are some differences between toys and animals?
5. Why is it important not to buy animals or give them as gifts?

Introduction

Humans are like other animals in many ways—including the ability to feel sadness and experience pain and suffering. We can include animals in our circle of compassion and allow empathy—putting ourselves in their place—to guide our interactions with them.

Procedure

Display the images below, which can be accessed at [SharetheWorld.org/Collage_3-5](https://www.sharetheworld.org/collage-3-5). Have the students discuss the following questions in small groups:

- What is happening in each photo?
- How do you think the dog feels in each photo?
- What makes you think so?



Common Core Supplemental Activity

Since the “I Am an Animal” activity will most likely provoke strong opinions about the way animals and others should be treated, it can be a springboard for opinion writing. Have students use the writing prompt below to create an opinion piece.

Opinion Writing Prompt

“Imagine that you’re a nonhuman animal. How should you be treated by humans? Support your point of view with reasons. Consider how you would feel if you were this animal as well as what you would enjoy, want, and fear in life, and choose three things that you might wish for.”

Here are some options for mini-lessons to target specific skills and help students develop their writing:

- Craft an introduction. (Grab your reader’s attention.)
- Distinguish facts from opinions. (Find animal facts at [PETAKids.com](https://www.petakids.com).)
- Use linking words and phrases. (Connect your opinions to your reasons.)
- Provide a concluding statement. (Restate your opinion, and issue a call to action to help the animal.)

Common Core Standards Addressed

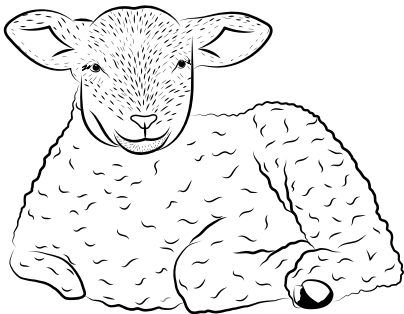
W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

W.4–5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

SL.3–5.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Opinion Writing: I Am a(n) _____

Imagine that you’re a nonhuman animal. How should you be treated by humans? Support your point of view with reasons. Consider how you would feel if you were this animal as well as what you would enjoy, want, and fear in life, and choose three things that you might wish for.



ANIMALS ARE AMAZING



Amazing Animal Facts

Introduction

The more we know about animals, their abilities, and their behavior, the more we see how complex and intelligent they are.

Procedure

Read through this list of animal facts and ask students to raise their hands when one surprises them. Then have them share and compare their feelings.

- ✓ **Beavers** live in complex societies, construct their own homes, and store their food.
- ✓ **Elephants** sometimes use twigs to draw in the dirt.
- ✓ **Orangutans** build overhead platforms in their nests to keep out the rain and use large leaves as umbrellas.
- ✓ **Birds called “warblers”** fly all the way from Canada to South America and back, returning to the same place to each year to build a new nest
- ✓ **Electric eels** communicate by transmitting electrical signals to each other.

Cut out the cards with more “Amazing Animal Facts” on the next page. Have students form small groups and give one card to each group (more than one group can discuss the same fact). Have them read the fact and discuss the questions on the card. Then have each group share its fact and responses with the whole class.

Common Core Supplemental Activity

Some facts from the “Amazing Animal Facts” activity are likely to surprise students—and may change the way they think or feel about a type of animal.

Have students use the writing prompt below to create a short, constructed response based on their opinion. Students should use valid reasoning and evidence for their opinion.

Short Constructed Response Prompt

“Choose the fact that surprised you the most. How does this information change the way you think or feel about that animal? In a few sentences, explain your reaction.”

Common Core Standards Addressed

W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

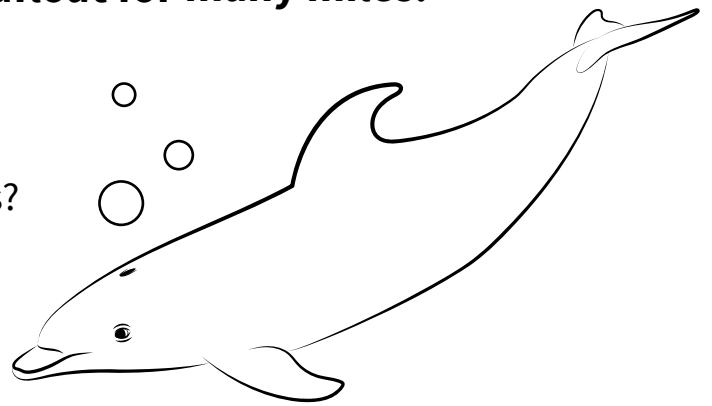
W.4–5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

SL.3–5.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.



Dolphins have protected shipwreck survivors from drowning and from sharks, sometimes keeping them afloat for many miles.

- How have dolphins helped humans?
- Why do you think dolphins behave this way?
- How do you think dolphins feel about humans?
- Did your feelings about dolphins change after learning this fact? Explain your answer.



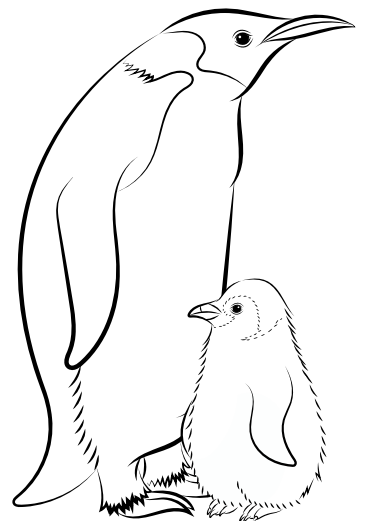
Cows form a protective circle around their calves when danger or rough weather threatens them.

- How do cows help each other?
- Why do you think cows behave this way?
- How do you think cows feel about each other?
- Did your feelings about cows change after learning this fact? Explain your answer.



Male emperor penguins guard and incubate female emperor penguins' eggs for two months, without food, in subzero Antarctic temperatures.

- How do emperor penguins help each other?
- Why do you think male emperor penguins behave this way?
- How do you think emperor penguins feel about each other?
- Did your feelings about penguins change after learning this fact? Explain your answer.



HOW YOU CAN SAVE ANIMALS



Be an Animal's Best Friend

Introduction

For this activity, students will consider the needs, feelings, and thoughts of the animal companions they or their friends or relatives share their homes with in order to build empathy and better understand their needs.

Procedure

Students should choose a domestic animal and then list things that the animal likes and dislikes, things that they themselves like and dislike, and things that both they and the animal like and dislike on the activity sheets on the next two pages. Have students share and discuss their responses with other classmates who chose the same domestic animal.

Common Core Supplemental Activity

Use this opportunity to discuss with students why it's important to adopt from open-admission animal shelters and to be sure that the needs of the animals they bring into their homes are met. Many students buy animals like fish, mice, rats, hamsters, birds, and even cats and dogs from pet stores without realizing that they suffer in the pet trade, where they're treated like objects—rather than living beings—or that each of them has very specific needs.

Part of caring for a domestic animal is understanding the animal's needs, likes, and dislikes. Students will consider this from an animal's perspective by using the writing prompt below to create an informative piece of writing.

Writing Prompt

“Think about your chosen animal and describe the responsibilities of caring for that animal. Be sure to consider the animal's needs *and* likes and dislikes. Also include how the animal might feel if any of these responsibilities were neglected.”

Here are some options for mini-lessons to target specific skills and help students develop their writing:

- Gather and sort facts. (Find animal facts at PETAKids.com.)
- Organize ideas. (Show the relationships between responsible actions and their positive effects vs. neglectful actions and their negative consequences.)
- Craft a conclusion. (Explain why this matters.)

Common Core Standards Addressed

W.3–5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

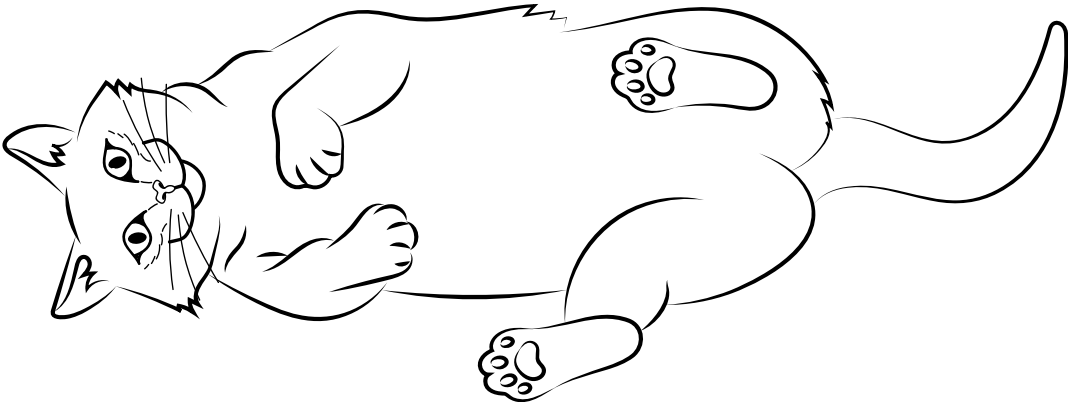
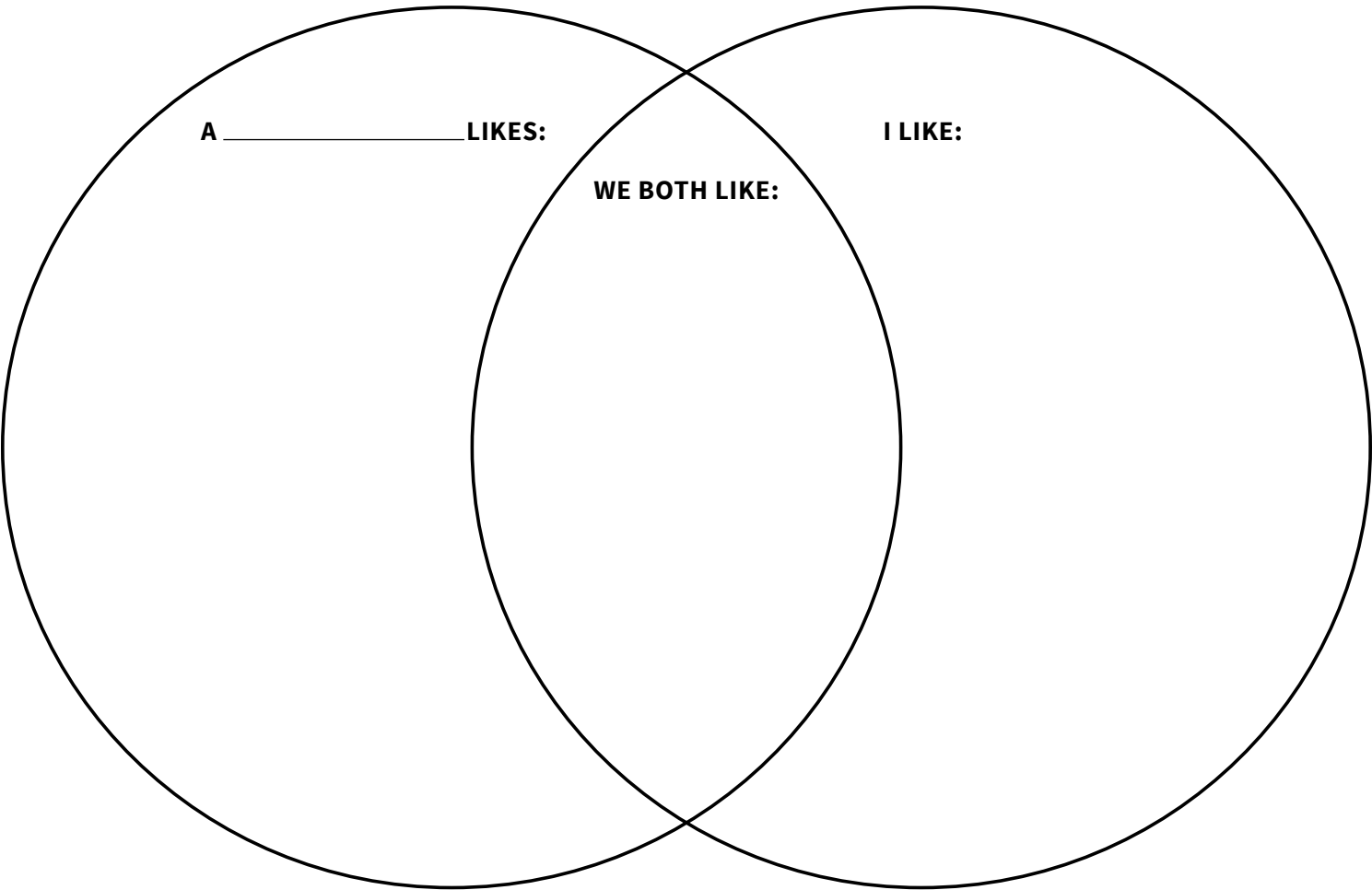
SL.3–5.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.



Name _____ Date _____

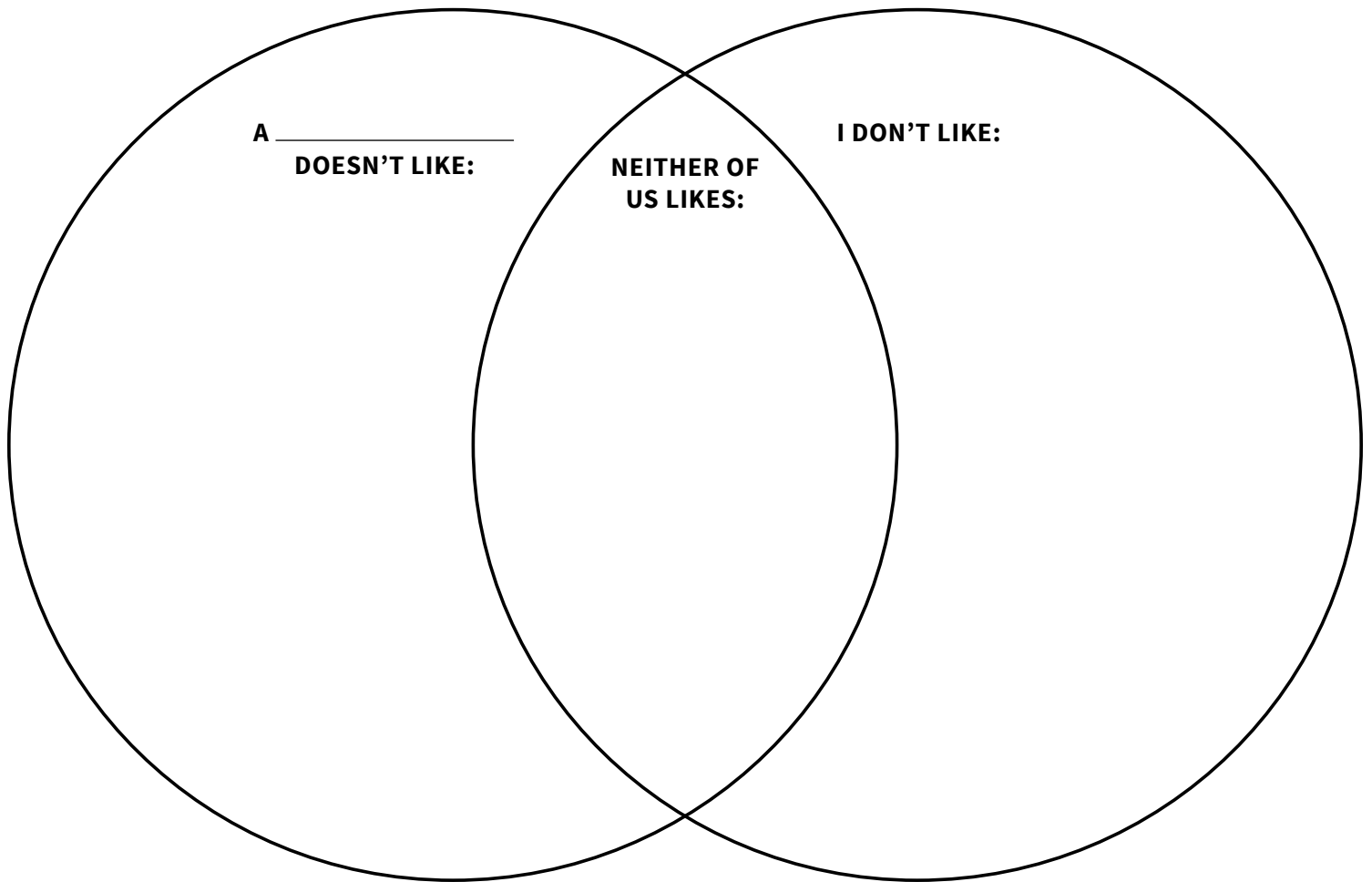
Dogs, cats, and the other animal companions who share our homes aren't wild—they're "domestic," which means that they rely on their guardians (that's us!) to make sure that they're taken care of and have everything they need for a safe and happy life. Caring for animals is a big responsibility, and it's important to learn about their needs and pay attention to what they like and dislike.

For this activity, choose a domestic animal. Think about the things that type of animal likes, things that you like, and things that you both like, and write them in the spaces below.

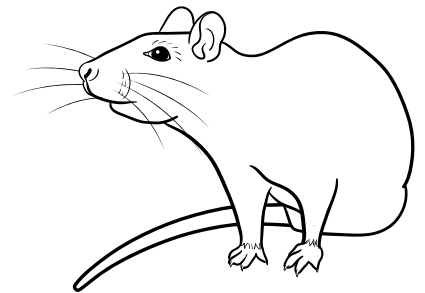


Name _____ Date _____

Now, think about the things that the animal doesn't like, things that you don't like, and things that neither of you likes, and write them in the spaces below.



And remember: If you decide to welcome a new animal into your home, never buy one from a pet store or a breeder. Cats, dogs, hamsters, fish, rats, mice, and birds all suffer in the pet trade, where they're treated more like objects than like living beings. There are millions of loving animals waiting for homes in shelters around the world. Save a life by adopting (never buying) an animal!



Introduction

This activity presents students with a variety of ways in which animals are being used by humans today and challenges them to think of alternatives to these uses or to come up with new ones.

Procedure

This information is covered in the *Share the World* video, so do this activity after watching the video, if possible. You may also want to have students view the “How You Can Save Animals” segment of the video again before this activity.

Write the following on the board:

- Dissecting frogs in the classroom to teach biology
- Testing products like soap and shampoo on animals in laboratories
- Forcing animals to perform tricks in the circus

Ask students what these three things have in common. Explain to them that there are animal-friendly alternatives for each one. In small groups, have students discuss the following and record their responses on the worksheet on the next page:

- a. What the animal-friendly alternative is
- b. What impact the animal-friendly alternative would have on the animal being used
- c. What impact the animal-friendly alternative would have on humans
- d. Why the animal-friendly alternative isn't being used all the time

Common Core Supplemental Activity

The information from the “Changing Times, Changing Minds” activity will most likely generate strong opinions from students. Students can do their own research to find facts that support their opinions and conclusions.

Have students use the writing prompt below to create an opinion piece.

Writing Prompt

“Choose the issue that you feel most strongly about (dissection, animal testing, or using animals in entertainment). Write a letter to a science department (for dissection), product company (for animal testing), or entertainment facility (for animals in entertainment). Provide information about animal-friendly alternatives and their benefits and explain why animals deserve humane treatment.”

Here are some options for mini-lessons to help students develop their writing:

- Craft an introduction. (Grab your reader's attention.)
- Distinguish facts from opinions. (Find animal facts at PETAKids.com.)
- Evaluate sources. (Use a reliable source such as PETAKids.com.)
- Provide a concluding statement. (Restate your opinion, and issue a call to action to help the animal.)

Common Core Standards Addressed

W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

W.4–5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

W.3.7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

W.4.7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

W.5.7: Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

SL.3–5.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Name _____ Date _____

Changing Times, Changing Minds

Throughout history, humans have used animals for their own purposes, but thankfully, we're starting to realize that they aren't really ours to use or abuse. Think about the ways that humans use animals shown below, then discuss the following questions with your group for each type of animal use.



What is the animal-friendly alternative?

What impact does the animal-friendly alternative have on the animal being used?

What impact does the animal-friendly alternative have on humans?

Why is the animal-friendly alternative not being used all the time?

Dissecting frogs in the classroom to teach biology



Testing products like soap and shampoo on animals in laboratories



Forcing animals to perform tricks in the circus

Animal Overpopulation = Sad Math

In the United States alone, millions of animals enter animal shelters each year because there simply aren't enough good homes for them all, which has resulted in an overpopulation crisis. That's why it's so important to make sure that our dogs and cats are spayed and neutered—and that we always adopt from animal shelters instead of buying from pet stores and breeders, which only bring more animals into an already overpopulated world.

A typical unspayed female dog will have two litters of six puppies each year. Assume that each litter has three males and three females. The answer to the math problem below will help us understand why there are so many homeless dogs and cats and why it's necessary for humans to take action to change this.

AFTER EACH SENTENCE, WRITE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DOGS

1. Bonnie is an unspayed female dog:

+

2. In the spring, she has 6 puppies (3 males and 3 females):

=

TOTAL A

3. In the fall, Bonnie has her second litter of 6 puppies:

+

4. Her 3 daughters have 6 puppies each (3 x 6):

=

TOTAL B

5. The next spring, Bonnie has her third litter of 6 puppies:

+

6. Her 6 daughters have a litter of 6 puppies each (6 x 6):

+

7. Her 9 granddaughters have a litter of 6 puppies each (9 x 6):

=

TOTAL C

8. The next fall, Bonnie has her fourth litter of 6 puppies:

+

9. Her 9 daughters have a litter of 6 puppies each (9 x 6):

+

10. Her 54 granddaughters and great-granddaughters have a litter of 6 puppies each (54 x 6):

=

TOTAL D

A

+

B

+

C

+

D

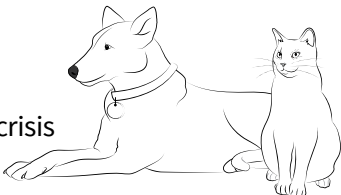
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TOTAL

NOW, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

What should have been done to prevent Bonnie from having so many puppies?

What are the most important things that humans can do to help stop the animal overpopulation crisis and decrease the number of homeless animals? Write your ideas on the back of this page.



SHARE THE WORLD VIDEO SUPPLEMENT

There are seven places to pause for discussion during the video. Questions are displayed on the screen after each segment, and you can choose to have a whole-class, small-group, or partner discussion for each question.

ANIMALS ARE LIKE US

(3:56) “Can you think of any other ways in which humans and animals are alike?”

If students need prompting, you can remind them of examples from the video, such as that dogs like to play.

(6:34) “What are some of the feelings you have that animals share?”

If students need prompting, you can remind them of examples from the video, such as that some geese hang their heads in grief when they lose their partners.

(6:34) “What do animals do that shows they care about their families?”

If students need prompting, you can remind them of examples from the video, such as that elephants mourn their dead relatives by touching and holding their bones.

ANIMALS ARE AMAZING

(12:41) “If you could have any of these animal superpowers, which would you pick?”

If students need prompting, you can remind them of examples from the video, such as that cats are able to see in the dark.

(12:41) “Can you think of other things that animals can do that humans can’t?”

If students need prompting, tell them that dogs can smell smoke before smoke detectors go off.

HOW YOU CAN SAVE ANIMALS

(16:03) “How would you feel if you were being bullied?”

Have students think about this from an animal’s point of view.

(17:36) “Can you think of some ways to be a better best friend to your dogs, cats, and other animals?”

If students need prompting, have them consider making sure that their companion animals have everything they need, like fresh water, good food to eat, toys to play with, a comfortable bed to sleep in, regular veterinary care, and—most important of all—love and affection.

(19:09) “What are some other choices you can make that can save animals?”

If students need prompting, have them consider adopting animals from an animal shelter instead of buying them from a pet store or a breeder.

(21:20) “Can you think of a way to help an animal who shares the world with us?”

If students need prompting, have them consider, for example, going for a hike with their family instead of visiting a zoo, animal circus, marine park, or aquarium. That way, they can see animals in nature without disturbing them.

----- Ratty Teaches Kids How to ----- **SHARE THE WORLD**

Many elementary school teachers use stuffed animals to make their lessons hands-on, interactive, and fun for young learners—and as former teachers ourselves, we at TeachKind fully support this smart classroom practice! So meet Ratty, a soft and cuddly plush rat that you can use with your students along with the activities in the Share the World curriculum kit (which you can download for free at **ShareTheWorld.org**) to inspire compassion and empathy for *real* animals.

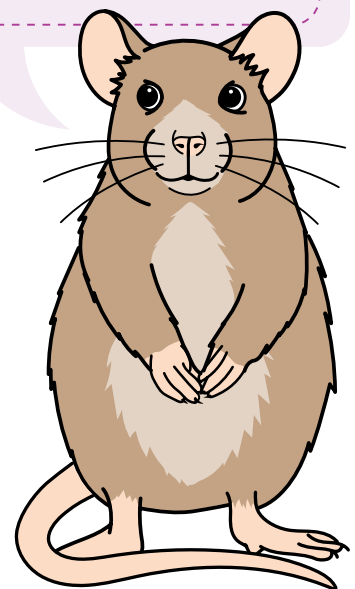
Share the World is perfect for teaching elementary school students the Golden Rule and the importance of having compassion and empathy for everyone, no matter their species. Although your students may be familiar with dogs, cats, birds, squirrels, and other animals they see around their neighborhoods, they may not know how fascinating rats are and why they—along with *all* other sentient beings—deserve kindness and respect. Ratty will inspire your students to see even the smallest, most unfamiliar animals as individuals worthy of consideration, and that empathy will extend to others, including their peers.

Here are just some of the engaging ways you can integrate Ratty into your lessons on kindness for all:

- ♥ Start by introducing Ratty to your students. You can say something like “Ratty is going to help teach us how to be kind to *all* animals, and he’ll be here to remind us about this when we need it.” Explain that rats love to snuggle with each other and with their

Bringing real animals into the classroom—as “pets,” to be used in life-cycle or other science lessons, or for any other purpose—is problematic for many reasons.

**Learn more at
TeachKind.org/
NoClassroomPets.**



human guardians and that they often cuddle up together to sleep. They appreciate a massage, a scratch behind the ears, or a tickle—and they even giggle! Your students would likely love to create a soft and cozy bed for Ratty in your classroom and when they take him home to spend time with their families. Share the World presents more fascinating facts about animals that kids might not know, including that crows play in the snow by sliding down rooftops and that mother chickens sing to their chicks before they hatch.

- ♥ Start a conversation about the similarities between Ratty and humans. Guide students in a group conversation about how, like humans, he has two eyes, two ears, and a nose. Point out that he may look different from us in other ways but that we're the same in all the ways that matter most: We all want to live, do the things that make us happy, and spend time with our families. Share the World has lessons to help kids see how other animals are like us, which fosters the development of critical social skills like empathy and perspective-taking.
- ♥ Allow students to take turns taking Ratty home for the weekend. Challenge them to do something kind for an animal with him, like feeding their dog or cat and refilling their water bowl or picking up litter in an outdoor area to protect wildlife. Have students write a sentence or two about their kind actions to share with their classmates the following week—they could even share photos of their adventures with Ratty. Be sure to check out the lessons in the How You Can Help Animals section of Share the World, which teach kids to consider the needs and feelings of animals they come into contact with.
- ♥ You can also celebrate students' birthdays or good behavior by allowing them to "care" for Ratty during free time, encourage students to read aloud to him during independent reading time, or make him your classroom mascot to educate curious kids from other classes and even your colleagues about how interesting rats are!



READY TO MAKE
RATTY
A PART OF YOUR
CLASSROOM?

E-mail us at Info@TeachKind.org
for more information.



Show us how Ratty inspires kindness to other animals! Post pics on social media using **#RattySharesTheWorld**.

HI! I'M RATTY!

I'm so excited to spend time with you and your family.

At school, we learn that it's never OK to bully others, including our classmates, our siblings, and the other animals we share the world with. We don't all look or behave the same, and that's what makes each of us special.



Bring me along as you and your child do kind things for animals. Take some photos and have your child write a sentence or two about each activity so they can share these things with their classmates. Here are some ideas:

- ♥ Feed your dog or cat and refill their water bowl.
- ♥ Pick up litter in an outdoor area to help protect wildlife.
- ♥ Spot a bug in your home? Don't squish them—rescue them with a small cup and a sturdy piece of paper, and then return them to the outdoors. For instructions, visit TeachKind.org/InsectRescue.
- ♥ Help protect birds from crashing into your windows by cutting shapes (like leaves) out of dark pieces of paper and taping them to each window.
- ♥ Get creative and think of other ways to help animals. Just remember never to feed wild animals or remove them from their natural habitat.

Thanks for being kind!

Love,

Ratty

