

Animal Detectives Day

Room Transformation Kit

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Students will answer questions and solve
mysteries to rescue an animal.

This Kit Includes:

- Printable room decor and costume props
- Presentation slides
- Student texts with comprehension questions (and an answer key)
- ELA and math activities



Contents

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Dear Kind Teacher:

Hello, and welcome to Animal Detectives Day! Today, your students will become detectives to help animals. Their assignment will be to read rescue stories, answer accompanying questions, and solve four activities—mysteries—to rescue a “mystery animal.” A circle map is included so students can keep track of their findings as they search for clues and uncover evidence. They’ll also learn about how animals are like us in ways that truly matter and deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. Their notes will help them create a poster at the end to help demonstrate what they’ve learned.

How to Use This Kit

Step 1: Print materials. Before students arrive, print the two door signs, bulletin board trim, banner letters, animal cutouts, and the three station signs, and use them to decorate your classroom. (*Note:* If you don’t have time to cut out the banner letters or animal cutouts, you could ask for student helpers the day before and tell them it’s for a fun surprise later.) Print one badge, one detective hat, one circle map, one folder cover, one recording sheet, and one certificate for each student. Print enough copies of the **Rescue Stories** (unless you choose the digital and editable format noted below*), **Decode a Secret Message**, **Math Madness**, **Crossword Craze**, and **Hidden Word** activities so that there will be enough for each student.

Notes

- There are six rescue stories available within this kit to print. You need to assign these three in order for students to be able to complete the crossword puzzle, but feel free to have students read and complete the additional rescue stories: “Get Ready to Fall in Love With Esther the Wonder Pig,” “Rescued Rats Find New Home,” and “Freddie on the Run.” These rescue stories provide hints for the crossword puzzle (*as denoted by emojis in the crossword puzzle activity*), which adds to the detective-like nature of having to search for clues.
- o *These rescue stories and their associated activities are also available in an editable PDF format that can be found at the following links:
 - o [Get Ready to Fall in Love With Esther the Wonder Pig](#) (includes hint for crossword puzzle)
 - o [Christmas the Puppy’s First Holiday](#)
 - o [Jake’s Recovery](#)
 - o [Rescued Rats Find New Home](#) (includes hint for crossword puzzle)
 - o [Freddie on the Run](#) (includes hint for crossword puzzle)
 - o [Saving Samson](#)
- The additional three rescue stories can be given to early finishers or assigned as extra credit or take-home activities for students who are interested. We’re also including our comics and reading activities for early finishers who want to do something different. (See the “Fast Finisher Activities Instruction Page” for links.)
- There are four different versions of the recording sheet to match the number of rescue stories you choose to assign.
- We have provided a word bank for the crossword puzzle for students who need this additional assistance.

Step 2: Set up the stations. There are three stations. (All students will need to begin with station #1, as they will need information gained in station #1 before moving on to station #2 and so forth.)

- **Station #1: “The Road to Rescue”** should have stapled copies of the rescue stories or devices to access the digital versions.
 - o “Get Ready to Fall in Love With Esther the Wonder Pig” (includes hint for crossword puzzle)
 - o “Christmas the Puppy’s First Holiday” (optional)
 - o “Jake’s Recovery” (optional)
 - o “Rescued Rats Find New Home” (includes hint for crossword puzzle)
 - o “Freddie on the Run” (includes hint for crossword puzzle)
 - o “Saving Samson” (optional)

- **Station #2: “Mystery Mastermind”** should have printed copies of the four activities (aka *mysteries*): “Decode a Secret Message and Practice Empathy,” “Math Madness,” “Crossword Craze,” and “Hidden Word” (to be completed in this order). You can have four separate stacks and instruct students to take one of each, or you can staple them together so students can take one packet. Make sure there are enough copies for every student to have one of each worksheet.
- **Station #3: “Positive Posters—How to Help Animals”** should have enough blank poster paper for each student to make their own poster (blank 8 1/2 x 11 sheets are fine if poster paper is not available). Students will write their own personal messages about how to help animals based on what they uncovered during their investigation. You can hang their posters on the bulletin board to showcase their learning. They can also color/decorate their posters with markers, colored pencils, or any other art supplies you have. You can e-mail us at Info@teachkind.org to order free stickers that students can add to their posters. Here are some sentence starters for students who need additional assistance:
 - I can help animals by _____.
 - When a _____ needs help, I can _____.
 - I can choose to _____, and this will help _____.

Step 3: Make an announcement. (There are presentation slides to accompany this announcement. See the table of contents.) Once your students have arrived, announce the following:

“Welcome to Animal Detectives Day! Today, you are becoming special detectives who help animals, and your assignment is to open an investigation in which you will answer questions and solve mysteries to rescue a mystery animal. An investigation involves looking for clues, gathering facts, and analyzing evidence, which means looking over or examining information. Evidence is anything that you see, experience, read, or are told that causes you to believe that something is true or has really happened. You each have a circle map to take notes on any words or information you think will be useful during your investigation. This can be information you find interesting, information you’d like to share with a friend, or information that sounds like it could help animals. Remember—your job as an animal detective is to rescue an animal. With each completed challenge in your investigation, you will move one step closer to rescuing a ‘mystery animal,’ so use your detective’s eye and pay close attention. The mystery animal is counting on you!”

Step 4: Student preparation. Instruct students to write their names on their badges, color their detective hats, and cut them both out. They will assemble their hats with tape and fasten their badges to their shirts (with safety pins or tape). Each student should have a circle map to write notes on and a folder with a folder cover on the front. (The folder cover can either be taped or stapled to the front of a regular folder, or you can get folders with clear plastic sleeves on the front to insert the folder cover.) Students will place their completed work in the folder after you’ve initialed their recording sheet.

Step 5: Begin! Allow students to move around the room and complete the stations. (If your room is small, you can have students take materials from the stations back to their desks to complete.) Direct them to station #1 first and have them take a copy of the assigned rescue stories. Once they complete the rescue stories, direct them to station #2, where they will collect the four “mystery” activities.

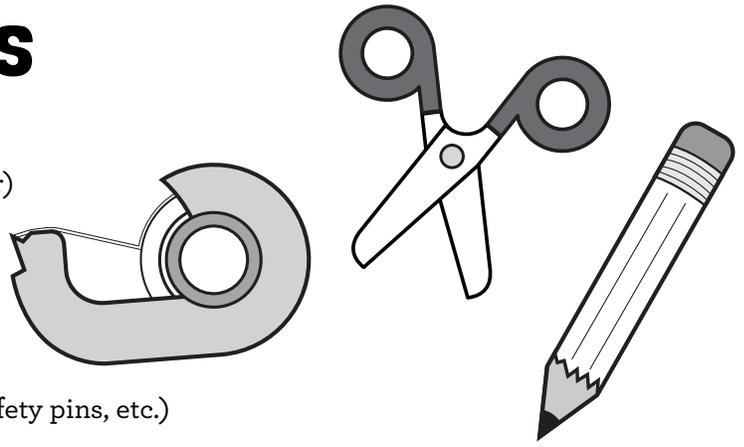
Note: Students will bring their “recording sheet” to you after they complete each rescue story and activity for you to sign off on so they can easily keep track of what they have completed and what they still need to complete.

Finally, direct them to **station #3**, where they will get a blank poster to take back to their desks to decorate. Once they complete all the activities and poster, give them a certificate and congratulate them on becoming a Master Detective. Students who finish before their classmates can choose to work on any of the “fast finisher” activities (listed in the table of contents).

Step 6: Announce the class prize. Once all your students have completed Animal Detectives Day, congratulate them as a class for completing their investigation and announce that they, collectively, rescued Ratty the Rat, the “mystery animal”! If you requested a Ratty beforehand, you may present yours to the class now. If you haven’t requested one yet, don’t worry! We’ve included a photo of Ratty in the presentation slides that you can show your students and let them know that Ratty is on the way—this will give them something to look forward to.

Suggested Supplies

- Pencils
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons (for creating a poster)
- Poster paper (or blank 8 1/2 x 11 paper)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Yarn or string for banner
- Fasteners for badges (tape, paper clips, binder clips, safety pins, etc.)
- Optional: notebooks for additional note-taking
- Folders for students to keep their completed worksheets (You can get regular folders and staple or tape the folder cover to the front, or you can get folders with clear plastic sleeves on the front and insert the folder cover.)
- Ratty plush from TeachKind (E-mail Info@teachkind.org to order a free Ratty.)



Additional materials to “set the mood” of a detective’s office:

- Lamps
- Blue and brown tablecloths to go over desks for different stations
- Caution tape
- Small magnifying glasses
- Animal plushes (You can encourage students to bring their own in preparation for this day if your school allows that.)

Setting the Mood

Detective’s offices are stereotypically dark rooms with dim lighting, lots of filing cabinets, and papers scattered everywhere and stacked on desks. To set the mood for this project, here are some helpful suggestions on additional materials you may like to include:

- It would be helpful to bring a few lamps into your classroom to set on desks. The lamps don’t need to be functional—they’re more for the aesthetic.
- We recommend a blue and brown color scheme to set a more “serious” mood than bright colors would.
- It may be exciting for your students to see caution tape around the classroom and have little magnifying glasses on the tables. These things could help make your students feel more like “official” detectives.
- Including animal plushies could help motivate your students to complete Animal Detectives Day. You could say something like, “Let’s take a look at all the animal plushies here today. They represent all the kinds of animals who need our help in the world. For example, bears are sometimes kept in dirty roadside zoos, dogs are sometimes forced to live outdoors 24 hours a day, and rabbits are sometimes used in cruel experiments.”

As for room setup, here is what we suggest: Arrange three single tables or desks somewhere in the classroom. These will be stations #1, #2, and #3, where students will go to get their supplies. The students’ desks can be arranged in groups (however many you wish) with a lamp in the middle of each group. Or the desks can be pushed together to create a perimeter around the classroom and lamps scattered evenly throughout. Decorate the students’ desks with alternating blue and brown tablecloths. Students will collect materials from station #1 and complete them at their desks. Once finished, they will do the same with station #2 and station #3.



Get ready for **Animal Detectives Day!**

Grab your badge and detective's hat! You're now an animal detective, and your job is to solve mysteries as part of your investigation to **rescue animals**.

You will read, write, look for evidence, and investigate clues. Anything you see or experience could help you solve the mysteries, so pay close attention and think like a detective!

Teach*Kind*

Investigation in progress!



Teach*Kind*



**Cats blink
slowly to
show they are
comfortable
with you!**



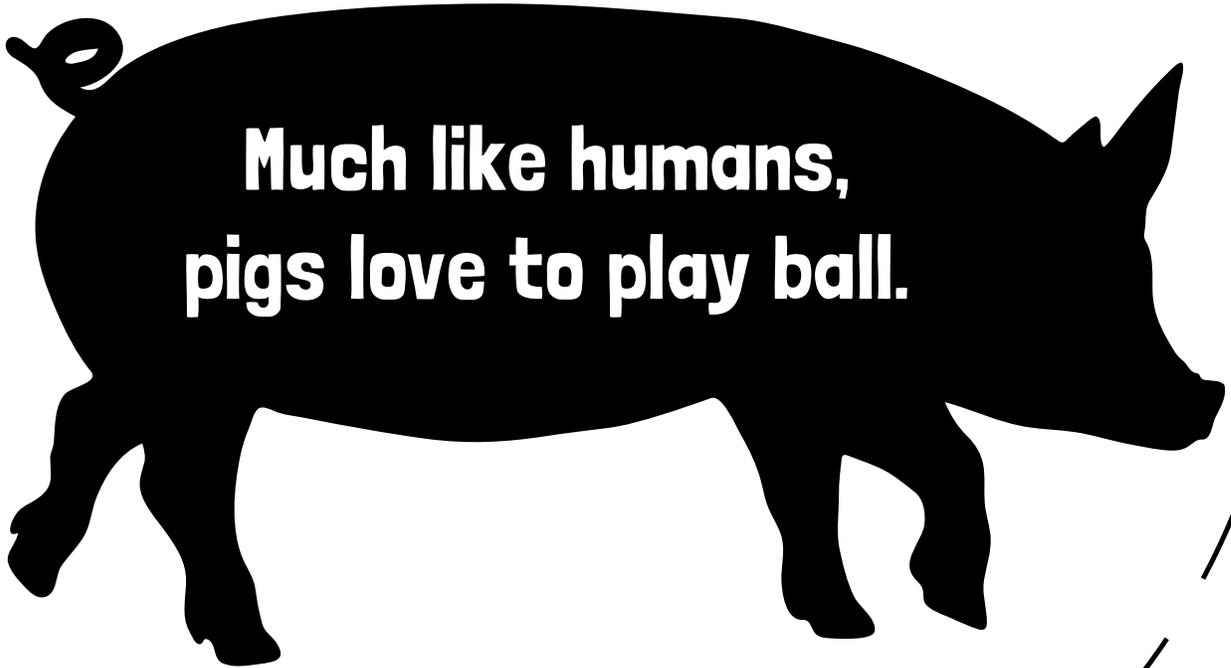
**Bees dance to
communicate!**

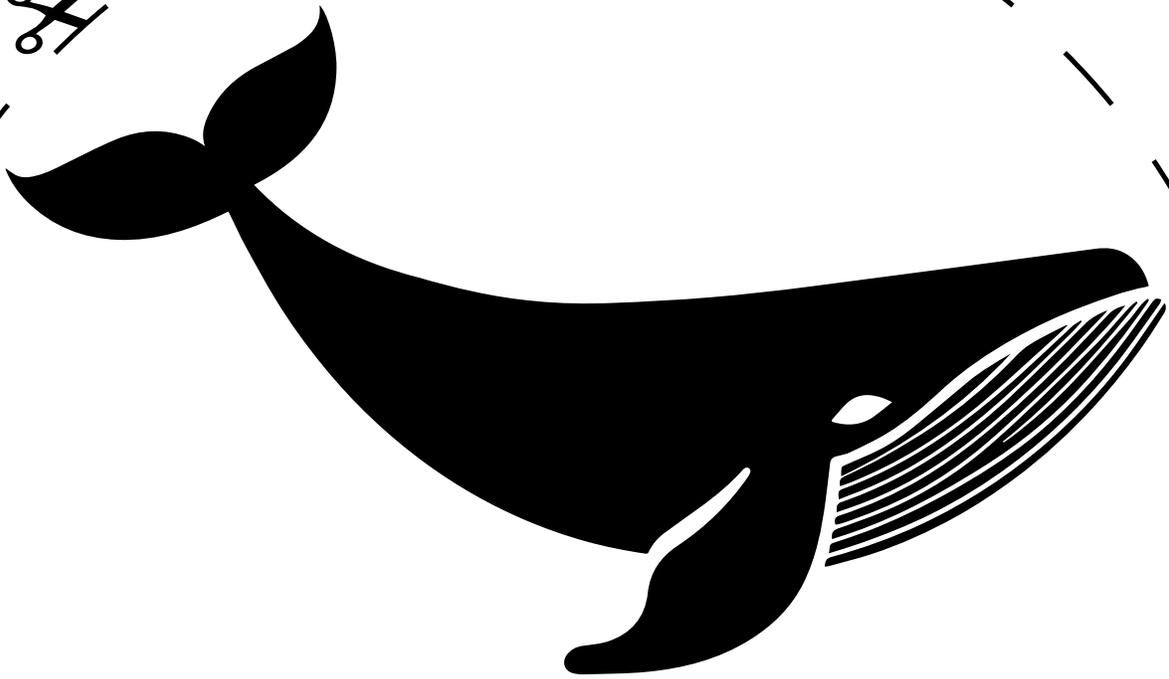


**Chickens
dream just
like we do!**



**Much like humans,
pigs love to play ball.**



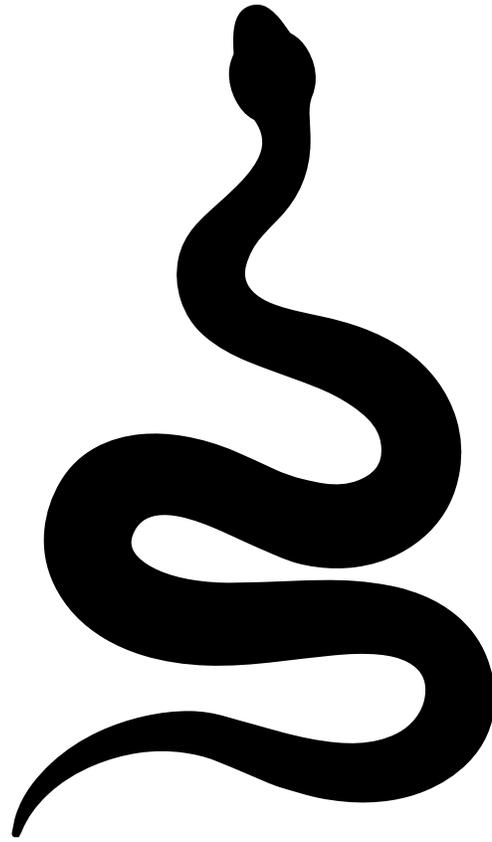


**Whales often
communicate
through song!**



**Rats giggle when
they're tickled!**





**Snakes are cautious
parents who protect
their eggs.**

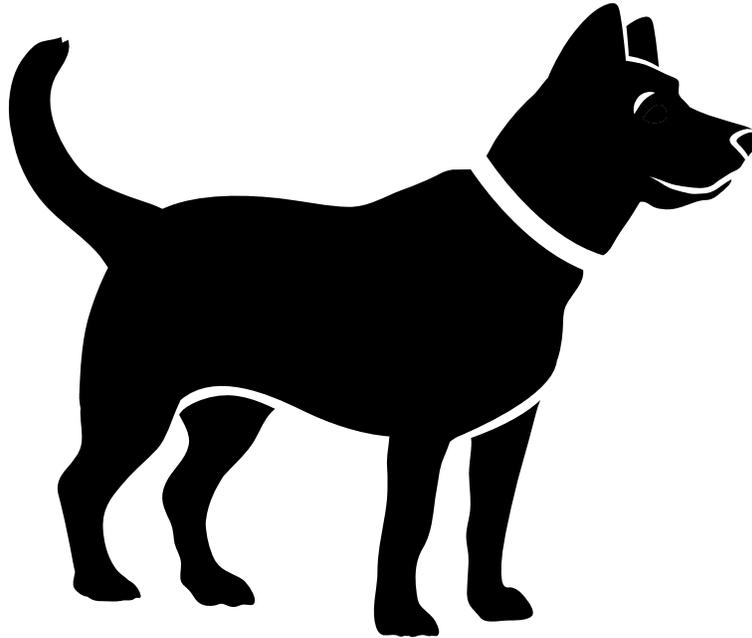


**Many frog species
are devoted parents!**

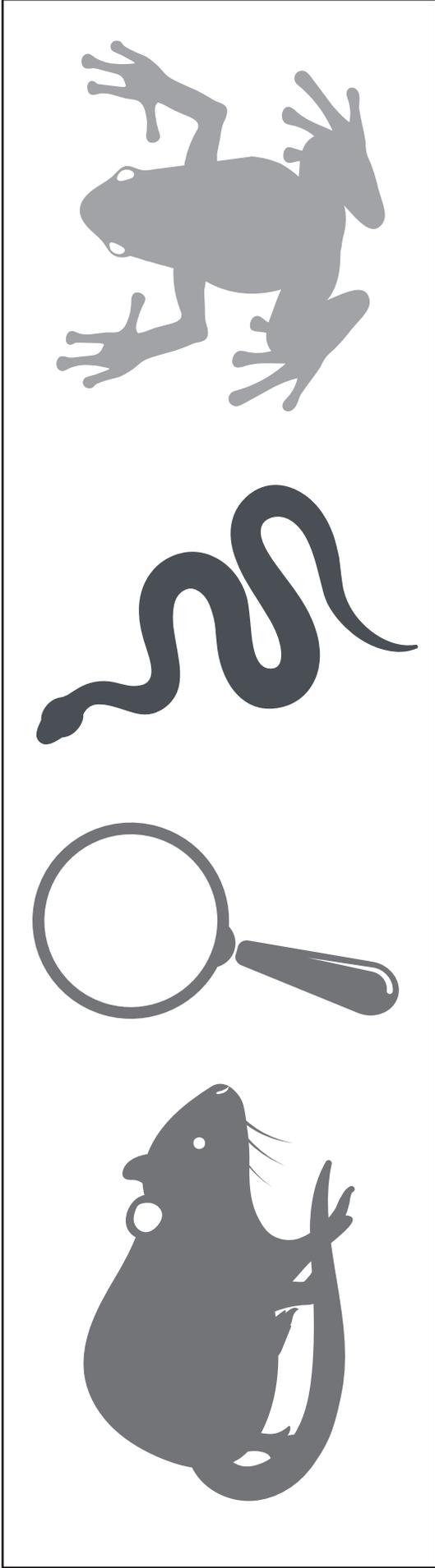


**Elephants love
their families,
just like us!**

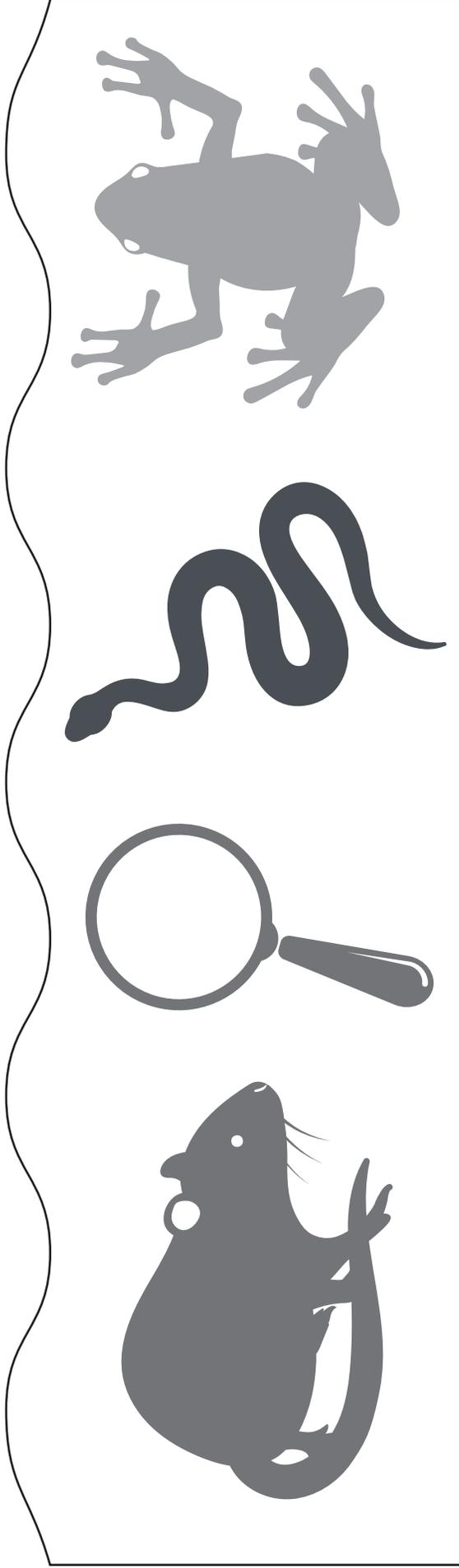




**Dogs often use signals with
their ears, eyebrows, shoulders,
or tails rather than
sound to communicate.**



Instructions for bulletin board trim: Print as many strips as you need to cover the perimeter of your bulletin board. Tape or staple them around your bulletin board.



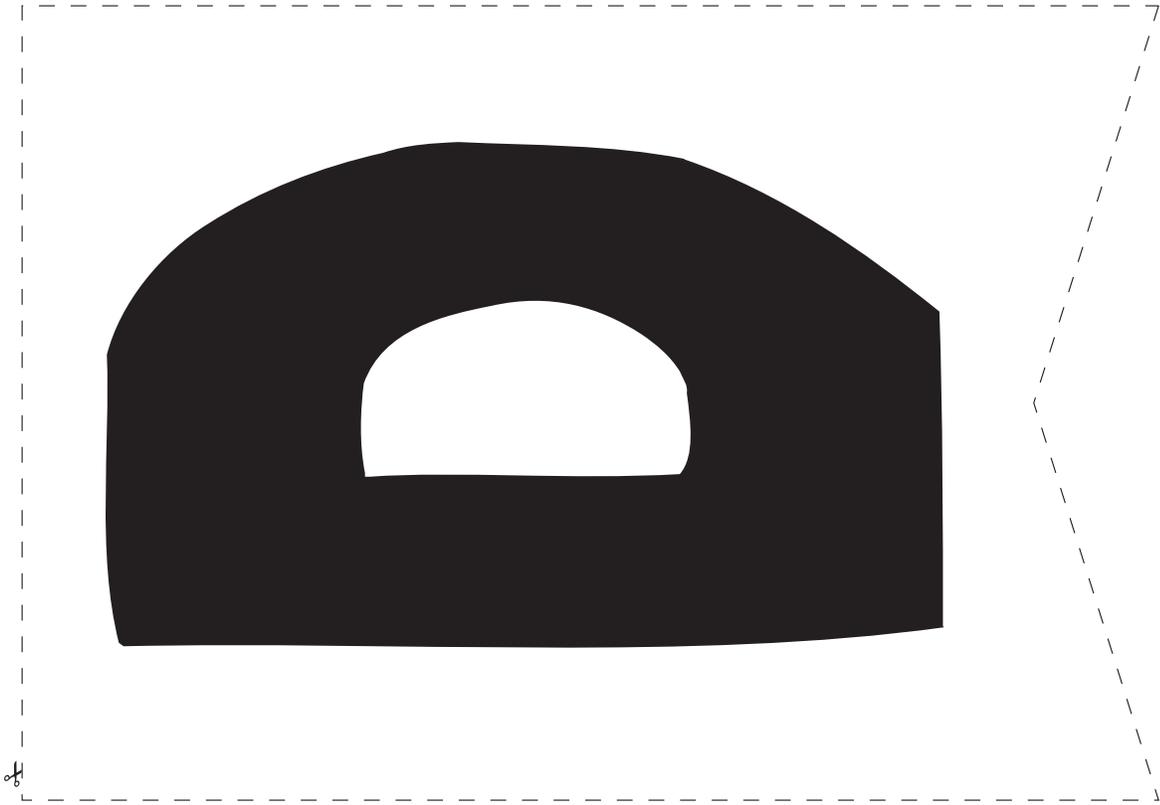
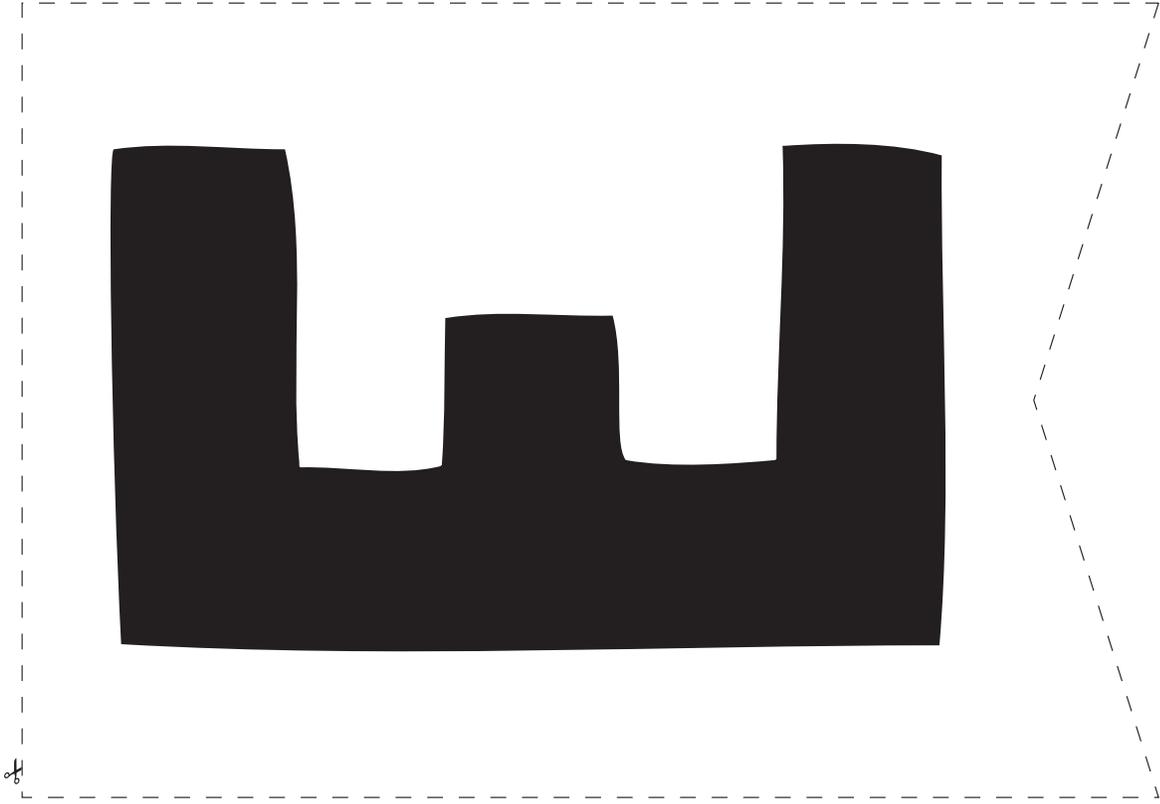
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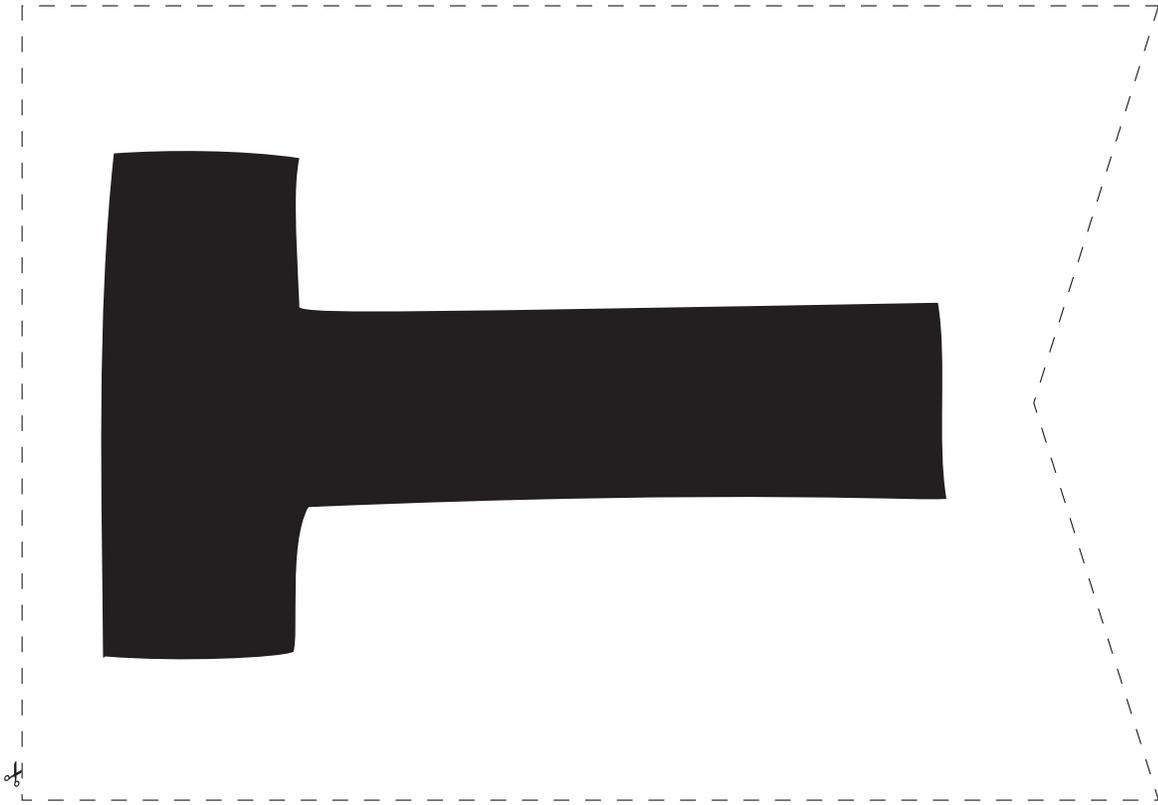
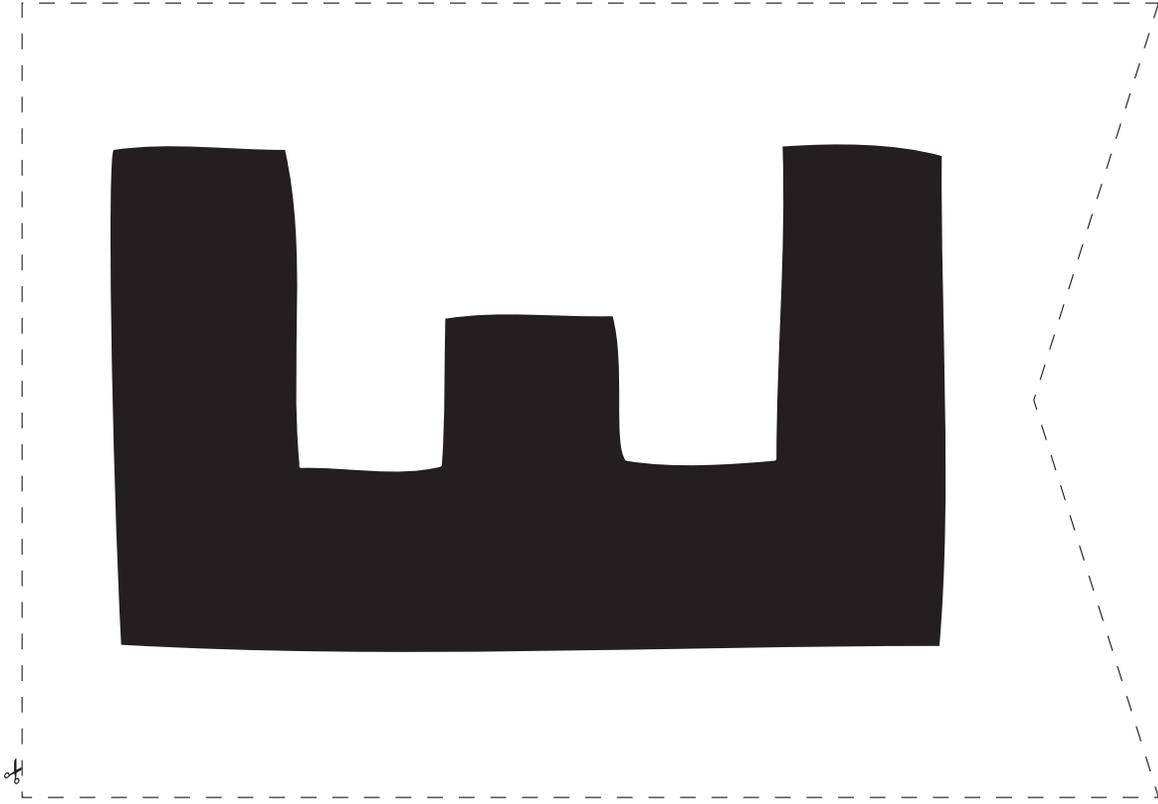


Instructions for letter cutouts: Cut out the letters and string them together to hang in the classroom.

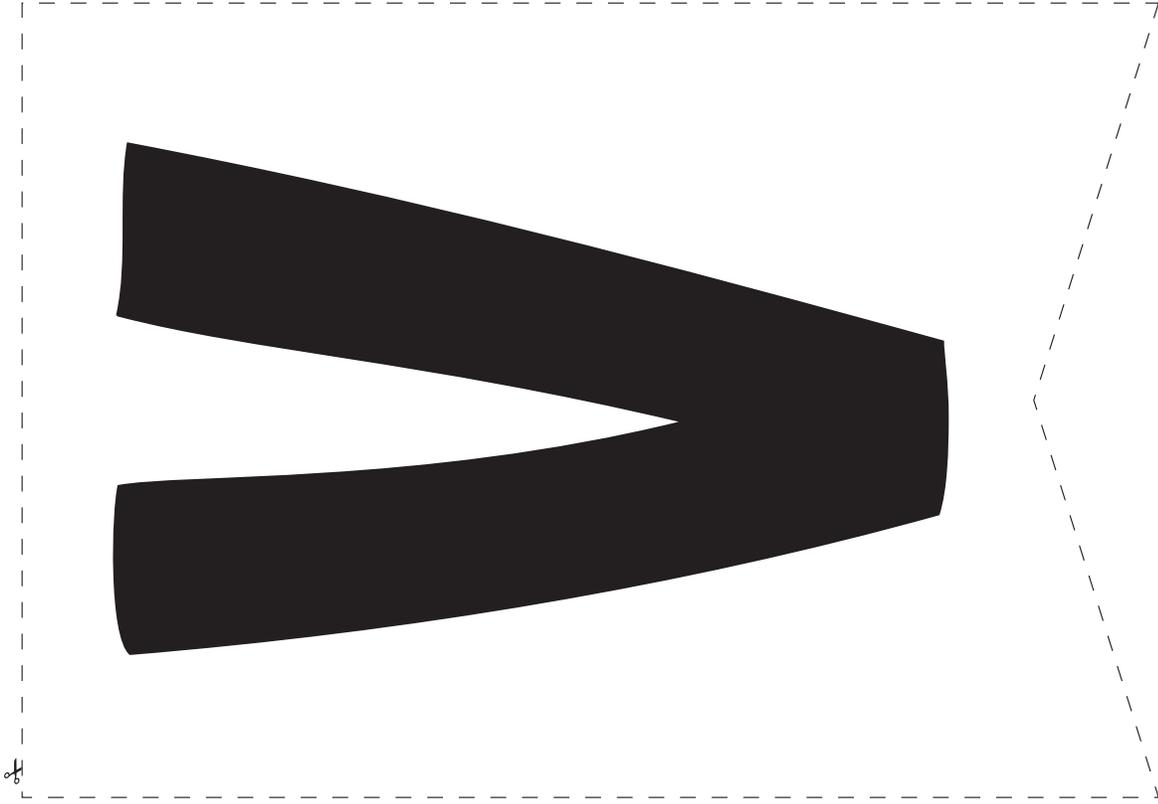


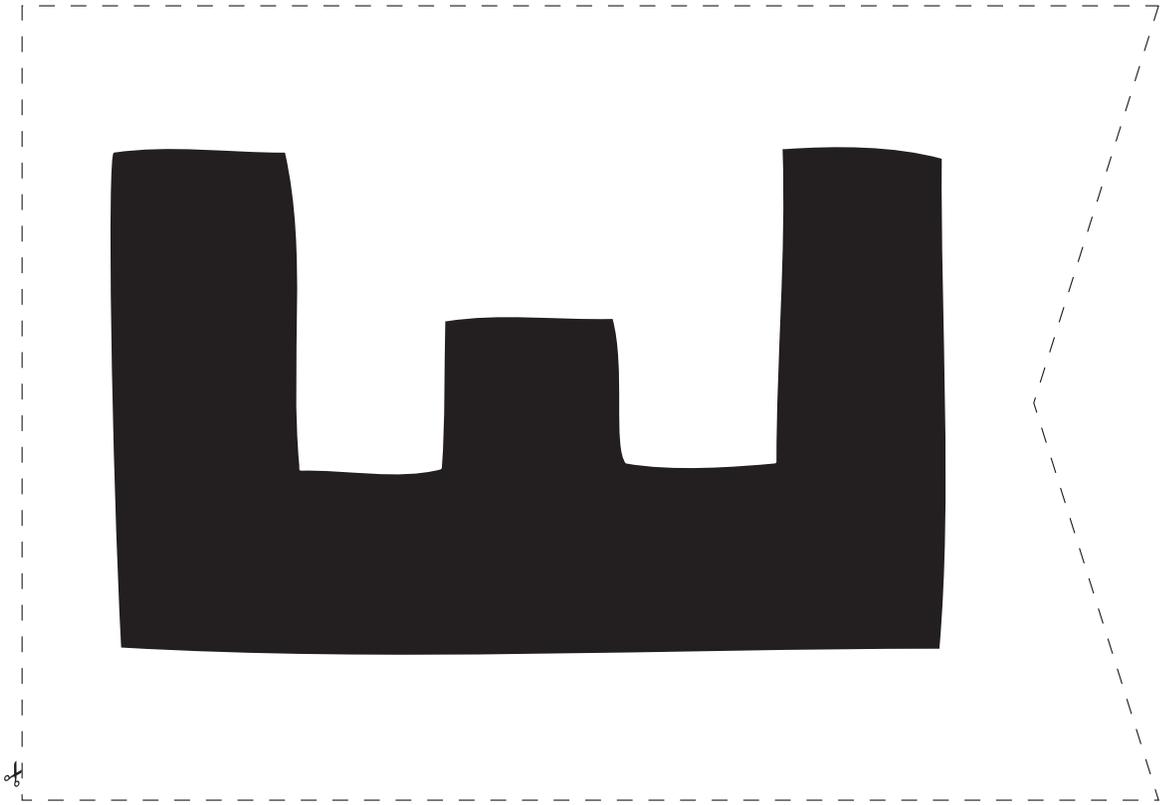


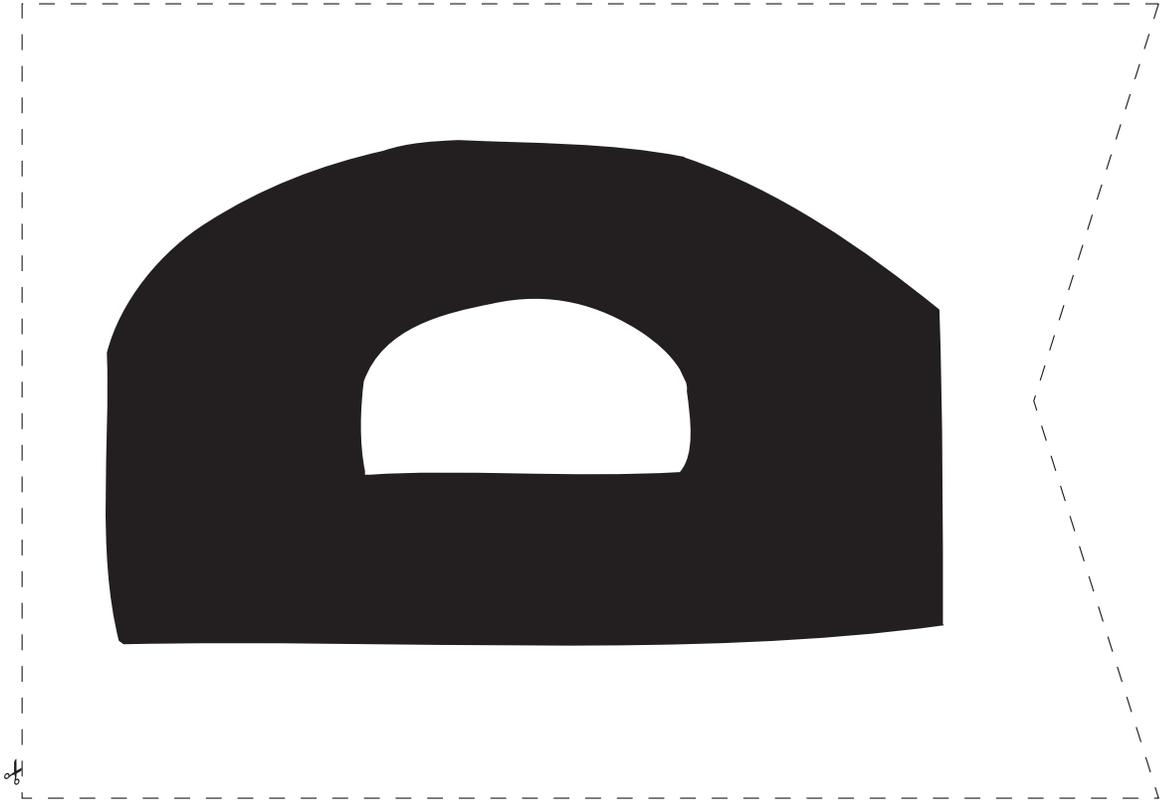


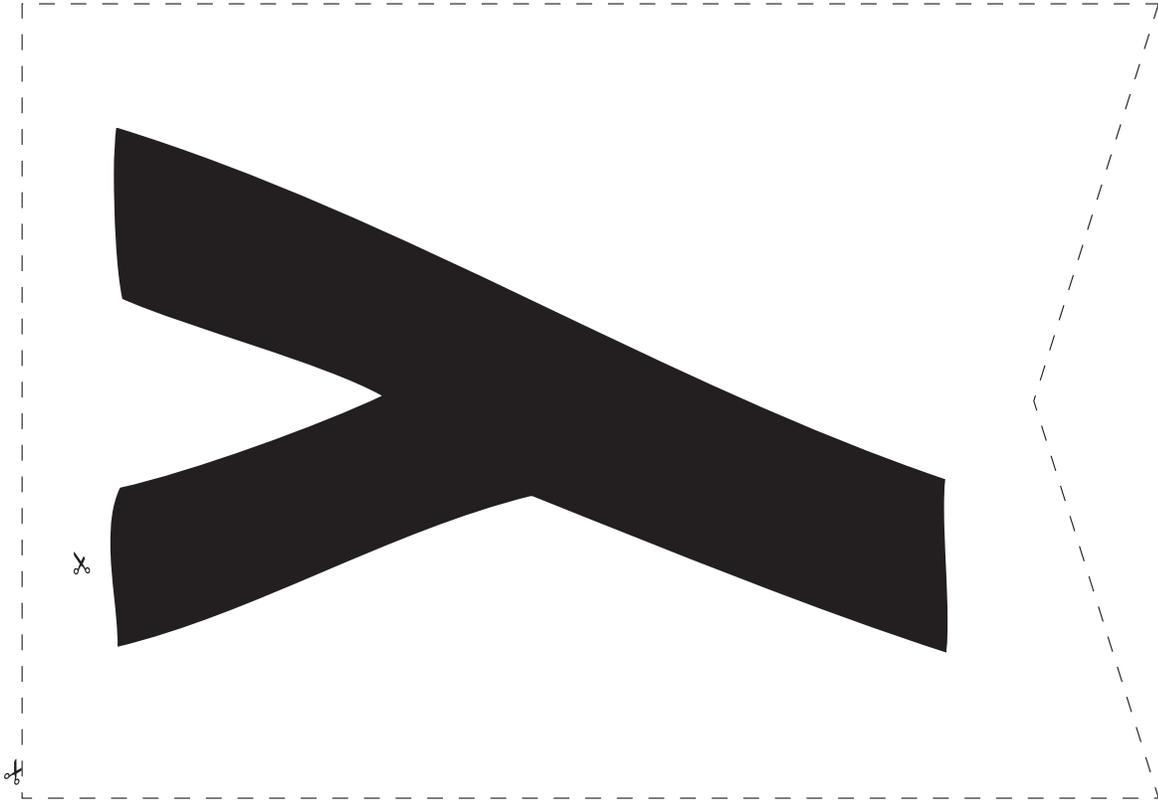












Presentation Slides

Scan the QR code below to view the accompanying presentation slides to use throughout Animal Detectives Day.



TeachKind.org/RoomTransformationPPT

Detective Badge

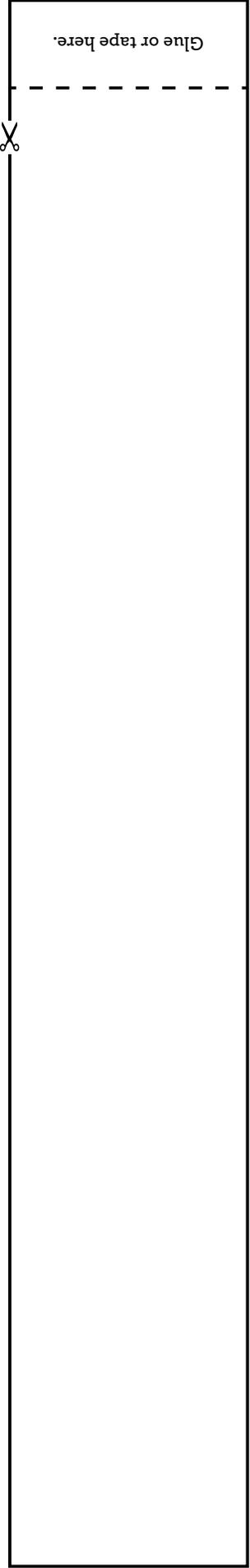
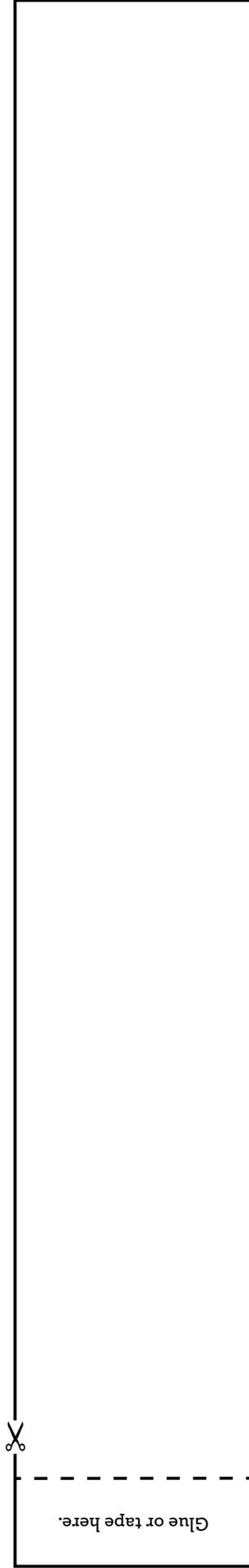
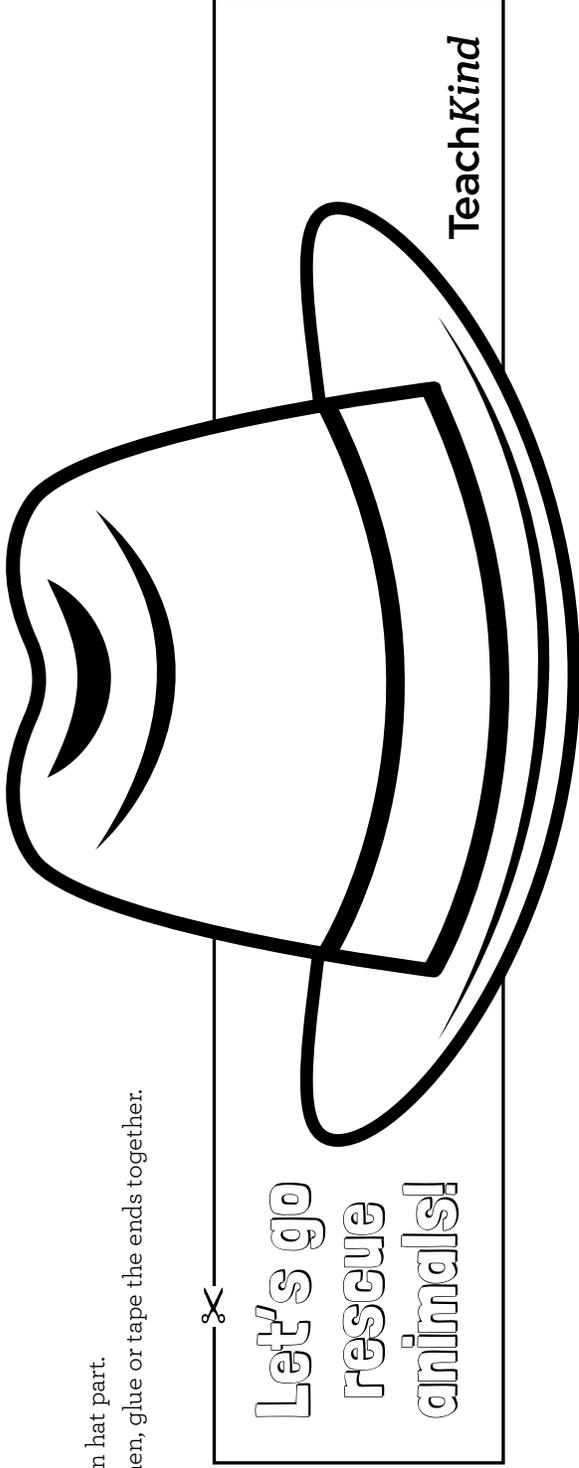
Cut out badges. Have students write their names on the dotted line.



Detective Hat

Instructions:

1. Color the detective hat.
2. Cut out all three pieces.
3. Tape or glue the side parts to the main hat part.
4. Cut off any excess to fit your head. Then, glue or tape the ends together.



Circle Map

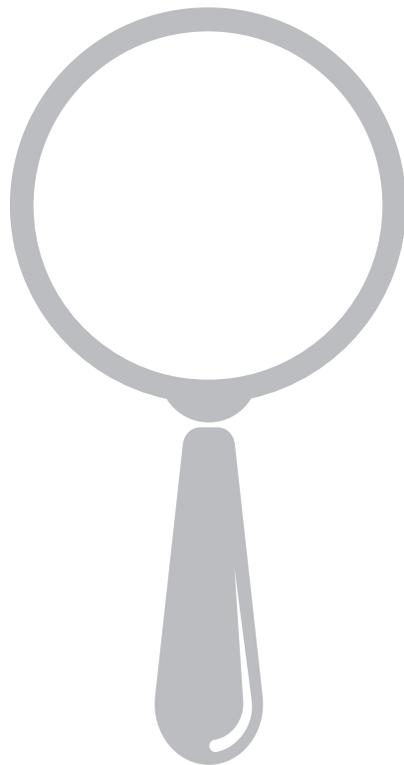
Use this circle map to help you take notes. In the bigger circle surrounding the topic, write down any details you find that support the topic. You will find details in the rescue stories you read and the mysteries you solve.



DETECTIVE

'S

Investigation Papers



TeachKind

This certificate is awarded to



for completing
Animal Detectives Day
and becoming a Master Detective.
You are a hero to animals!

TeachKind

This certificate is awarded to



for completing
Animal Detectives Day
and becoming a Master Detective.
You are a hero to animals!

Station #1: The Road to Rescue

Read the following stories about animals who were rescued from bad situations. As you're reading each story, use your "detective's eye" to see how many ways to help animals you can spot! Take notes on the circle map about how the people in the stories helped and rescued the animals.



TeachKind

Name: _____ Date: _____

Key Vocabulary

“micro-pig”	a dishonest term for pigs who are deliberately malnourished so that they remain smaller than average
commercial farm	a place where a large number of animals are raised for food; the animals are typically confined to small areas
animal companion	an animal who was adopted by a human and is cared for
breed	to cause animals to have offspring on purpose
vegan	someone who does not use animals, including for food, or something that does not come from animals
legacy	something that is left behind for others to benefit or learn from

The following images are from *The True Adventures of Esther the Wonder Pig* by Steve Jenkins, Derek Walter, and Caprice Crane and illustrated by Cori Doerrfeld.

Get Ready to Fall in Love With Esther the Wonder Pig

A friend who wanted to find a home for a young **“micro-pig”** persuaded Toronto couple Derek Walter and Steve Jenkins to welcome piglet Esther into their lives. But soon it became obvious that Esther was no “micro-pig.” She grew bigger every day, and soon she towered over the couple’s two dogs.



Derek and Steve guessed that Esther had been born on a **commercial farm** and had been cast aside because she was a “runt,” the smallest piglet in her litter. Every year, millions of pigs are raised for food on commercial farms where they can’t do anything that’s natural or important to them.

Although the couple was surprised to learn that their new **animal companion** had likely been meant to be eaten, they were even more surprised to see how similar Esther was to their dogs. She easily learned how to sit for a treat and even how to open the refrigerator door to sniff out something yummy, such as an apple. She loved to play tug-of-war and tag and chew her toys, and naptime meant finding the nearest dog or human to snuggle up to.

Even though it soon became apparent how big Esther would get and how much care she would need, Derek and Steve couldn’t bear to part with her. As they put it, “This isn’t Esther’s fault—she didn’t ask for the life she was given. We have the chance to provide her with the life she deserves, not the one she was **bred** for. What kind of people would we be to deny her that?”

As Esther continued to grow, she also grew closer to her dads. Soon, Derek and Steve realized that the animals they had always called “dinner” weren’t so different from the ones they called “friends.” Before long, both men went **vegan**. They started a Facebook page (Facebook.com/EstherTheWonderPig) to help other people see that all animals are thinking, feeling individuals who value their families and their lives. Esther enjoyed a beautiful life for 11 wonderful years before passing away peacefully at home. Her **legacy** of love and kindness to animals will inspire countless people for many years to come, just as her story inspired millions of people during her lifetime.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension Questions: ‘Get Ready to Fall in Love With Esther the Wonder Pig’

1. Why did Derek and Steve welcome a pig into their lives?

2. Why did Esther’s dads think she had likely been “meant to be eaten”?

3. In what ways was Esther similar to Derek and Steve’s dogs?

4. Why did Derek and Steve choose to go vegan?

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

Christmas the Puppy's First Holiday

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 so, 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 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.

Name: _____ Date: _____

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?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Key Vocabulary

neglected	not given proper attention or care
recovery	becoming healthy again after an illness or injury
slaughter	kill, typically for food
accredited sanctuary	place where animals are safe and cared for
vegan	someone who does not use animals, including for food, or something that does not come from animals

Jake's Recovery

Meet Jake the turkey from Oak Ridge, North Carolina! He was rescued by Red Dog Farm from a roadside zoo. Jake was very sick when he arrived at the farm—he didn't move or eat for almost two weeks. He had been severely **neglected** and nearly died. But with the rescue group's help, he made a full **recovery**. He is a wonderful animal with a gentle soul. Today, he is being properly cared for and has a loving home.

The holiday season should be joyful for everyone, but it's not a happy time for animals who end up on the dinner table. More than 45 million turkeys are killed each year at Thanksgiving, and more than 22 million are **slaughtered** at Christmas for holiday meals.

Turkeys are gentle, smart birds, but most of them spend their lives suffering in filthy conditions on factory farms before they're slaughtered. Only a lucky few, like Jake, are ever rescued and get to live at **accredited sanctuaries**.

You may not be able to rescue a turkey, but you can still help give animals a reason to be thankful by going **vegan**.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension Questions: Jake's Recovery

1. How did Jake become sick?

2. How do you think the rescue group helped Jake recover?

3. What can people do to make the holidays happy for turkeys?

4. The article says that Jake made a full recovery after he was **rescued** from a roadside zoo. What's the difference between a roadside zoo and a rescue group or an **accredited sanctuary**?

Key Vocabulary	
suffer	experience something painful
hoarder	person who collects too many animals or things
companionship	friendship and closeness with someone
grooming	brushing and cleaning an animal's coat
guardian	someone who takes care of someone else
cruelty-free	not tested on animals

Rescued Rats Find New Home

Rats and humans have a lot in common. They giggle when tickled, fall in love, and risk their lives to save their families. Like humans—and all other animals—rats can also feel pain and **suffer**, which is why PETA rescued this family of rats from a **hoarder**. Now, after being adopted, they are getting the love and care they deserve.

Rats have unique personalities. Take Melissa and Maizzie, for example. They like to snuggle in their hammock together. In fact, rats need **companionship** or they will become lonely and stressed. Maizzie is shy but will approach someone she feels safe around when offered a blueberry.

Rats are very clean animals. Bianca and Bettina are close friends and like to keep their soft fur shiny and clean by **grooming** each other throughout the day.

Not all rats look the same. Teddy, for example, somehow lost one of his ears, but that doesn't stop him from enjoying apple slices and gentle head scratches from his **guardian**. Sometimes, he climbs on top of his plastic house to keep an eye out for more treats.

Many rats and other animals, like mice, guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs, and cats, are used in cruel science experiments. They're forced to live in small cages, are experimented on, and don't get to play, cuddle, eat their favorite foods, or do anything else they enjoy.

People can help save these smart, curious, friendly animals by buying only **cruelty-free** products, which weren't tested on rats or any other animals—it will say that right on the label.

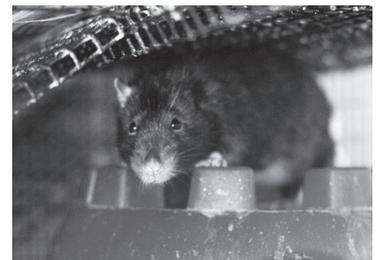
They can also choose humane traps if rats find their way into the house. If your family is ready to adopt a companion rat, be sure to find one at an animal shelter. Buying a rat from a breeder or pet store means that a rat in a shelter won't get a home, so don't do it. And consider adopting two rats—remember, they need companionship in order to be happy and healthy.



Melissa and Maizzie



Bianca and Bettina



Teddy



A humane mouse or rat trap

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension Questions: Rescued Rats Find New Home

1. What are some things that rats and humans have in common?

2. What will happen to rats if they don't have companionship?

3. What else do you think rats need to be happy and healthy?

4. Do you think it's fair to use animals in experiments? Explain your answer.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Key Vocabulary	
slaughterhouse	place where animals are killed for food
activist	person who works to make the world better
sanctuary	place where animals are safe and cared for

Freddie on the Run

Freddie the cow became famous after he ran away while being unloaded from a truck at a **slaughterhouse** in New York City. Police caught up with him in less than an hour and took him back to the slaughterhouse. But by then, videos of Freddie running through the busy city streets had quickly spread online, and people were asking for him to be rescued.

An **activist** shared Freddie's story with PETA workers, who contacted nearby **sanctuaries** to see if any of them could give the brave cow a safe new home. Mike Stura from Skylands Animal Sanctuary & Rescue drove his truck and trailer all the way from New Jersey to rescue Freddie. But when he arrived at the slaughterhouse, everyone had already left for the day.

Mike was determined to save Freddie, so he spent the night in front of the slaughterhouse in his truck. The next day, after talking with the slaughterhouse owner, he loaded Freddie into his trailer and took him straight to the vet to make sure he was healthy.

Freddie now lives at Mike's sanctuary with other rescued animals, including pigs, turkeys, and sheep. There, he's safe and free to roam and do as he pleases. He won't have to run away from anything for the rest of his life.

In nature, cows spend their lives with their families, but Freddie was probably taken away from his mother when he was just 1 or 2 days old so that her milk could be sold in stores instead of given to him. Cows produce milk to feed their babies, not humans.

Like all other animals, cows can feel happy, sad, and scared and they want to live. They will do amazing things to save their own lives, just as we would.

You can be kind to cows while still eating your favorite foods—there are loads of healthy, delicious options that don't contain meat or dairy. Learn more about helping cows like Freddie at **PETAKids.com**.

Visit **SkylandsSanctuary.org** to read more about Freddie and his friends!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension Questions: Freddie on the Run

1. How did Freddie become famous?

2. Why do you think Mike helped Freddie?

3. How do you think Freddie felt before being rescued and then afterward? What makes you think so?

4. What can you do to help cows like Freddie?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Key Vocabulary

breed	make animals have babies and then sell them
laboratory	a place used for scientific research
experiment	a plan for testing an idea
investigator	a person who carefully searches for information
undercover	hidden or secret
suffer	experience something painful
adopt	make someone part of the family

Saving Samson

Samson didn't have a bed or any toys. His teeth were rotting. He had ear infections. For eight years, he wasn't treated with the kindness that a dog deserves. He was treated more like a **breeding** machine at a place called Envigo, which bred and sold puppies to **laboratories** around the world. Samson was born and raised in this place. He was the father of about 200 puppies, who were shipped off to be used in painful, deadly **experiments**.

A PETA **investigator** worked **undercover** at Envigo to see how the dogs were treated. Almost 5,000 dogs and puppies were kept in cages all day every day at Envigo. They weren't allowed to run, play, or do other things that dogs like to do.



As workers cleaned his cage, they often sprayed Samson with water from a hose. They did this to other dogs, too, even mother dogs who were nursing their puppies. They couldn't move out of the way, so they got soaking wet and were scared.

PETA's investigator found a way to get Samson out. Today, he is finally enjoying his life.

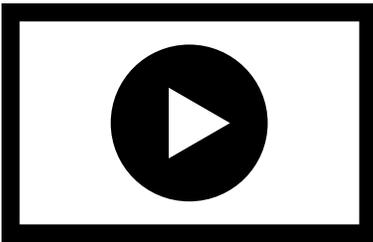
He goes for walks, chases leaves, watches birds and squirrels, and tries new foods. He sleeps well in a soft bed.

PETA showed officials that dogs were **suffering** at Envigo, and it closed down. In a few months, almost 4,000 dogs and puppies were taken out of there. Many were **adopted** into loving families. No more dogs will be bred or born at that miserable place. But there are still many places like this that sell animals to laboratories to be experimented on.

Experimenting on animals hurts them. It doesn't need to be done to keep humans safe. Millions of animals are suffering right now in tests for things like cosmetics, sunscreen, and other products. Luckily, more companies are choosing not to test their products on animals. It's easy to figure out which companies never test on animals. Simply look for the bunny logo on the product packaging. You can let your family and friends know that they should only buy products made by companies that never test on animals.



**ANIMAL
TEST-FREE**
— PETA —



[Watch Samson's rescue video.](#)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension Questions: Saving Samson

1. What did Envigo do with the dogs it bred?

2. Describe what life was like for Samson and the other dogs at Envigo.

3. How do you think Samson felt before he was rescued and then afterward? What makes you think so?

4. Do you think it's fair to use animals in experiments? Explain your answer.

5. What can people do to help animals used in experiments?

Fast Finisher Activities

Students who finish early can choose to complete any of the following activities:

- They can read the additional rescue stories that weren't used in station #1. There are also rescue videos that accompany the following rescue stories:

- [Esther's video](#) (*The Dodo*)
- [Christmas the Puppy's video](#) (PETA Kids)
- [Samson's video](#) (PETA Kids)

Students can watch the videos and then do a video response in which they write about anything they saw in the video that helped them understand the text better.

- They can read one or more of our comic books and complete the accompanying reading games. There are four comic books, an Inference Task Card game, and a Main Idea and Supporting Details Sort game:

- **Physical copies** of the comics can be ordered [here](#). You can also e-mail us at Info@teachkind.org to order the comics.

- **Digital copies** of the comics can be downloaded by clicking the links below:

- [A Chicken's Life Comic Book](#)
- [A Dog's Life Comic Book](#)
- [A Cow's Life Comic Book](#)
- [A Rat's Life Comic Book](#)

- The [Inference Task Cards](#) can be downloaded and printed here.

- The [Main Idea and Supporting Details Sort](#) can be downloaded and printed by clicking the links below:

- [A Chicken's Life Main Idea and Supporting Details Sort](#)
- [A Dog's Life Main Idea and Supporting Details Sort](#)
- [A Cow's Life Main Idea and Supporting Details Sort](#)
- [A Rat's Life Main Idea and Supporting Details Sort](#)

Station #2: Mystery Mastermind

Use your detective's mind to uncover clues and solve four mysteries to rescue animals and become a master detective!



TeachKind

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mystery #1: Decode a Secret Message and Practice Empathy

1. Decode a Secret Message

Instructions: Think like a detective and decode the message below to learn how you can help animals.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
												
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
												
































Secret Number



































































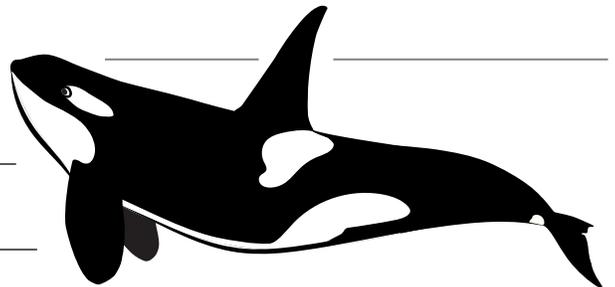
Clue: Complete the "Math Madness" activity to find the secret number.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mystery #1: Decode a Secret Message and Practice Empathy (cont.)

2. Practice Empathy

Empathy is when you put yourself in someone else's place and imagine how they feel. Imagine you're an orca and someone took you from your family in the ocean and put you in a tank. Describe how you would feel if you could never go where you wanted to go, have your favorite foods, or be with your family and friends. Then describe how you would feel if someone rescued you and set you free.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Mystery #2: Math Madness (cont.)

Remember to show your work.

4. Sally is walking in the park and counts 40 birds.
If she can feed 2 birds with 1 scone, how many scones
does she need to be able to feed all the birds?



Have you heard the saying “kill two birds with one stone”? That’s not a nice thing to say, is it? That’s why “feed two birds with one scone” is what kind kids say instead!

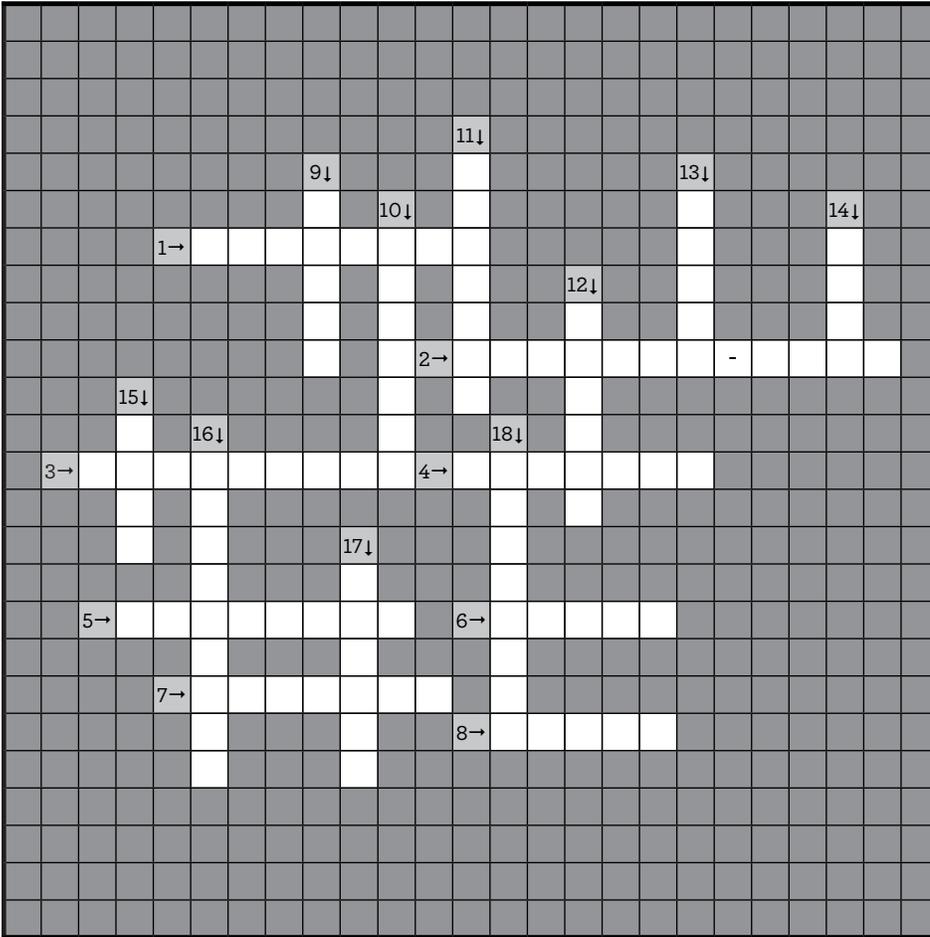
5. Thomas is watching some ants who are hard at work taking food into their mound. He counts 150 ants as they enter their home. If they come back out in groups of 3, how many groups of ants come out?

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} & + & \underline{\hspace{2cm}} & + & \underline{\hspace{2cm}} & + & \underline{\hspace{2cm}} & + & \underline{\hspace{2cm}} & = & \boxed{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \#1 & & \#2 & & \#3 & & \#4 & & \#5 & & \text{Secret Number} \end{array}$$



Clue: Add the answers to reveal the secret number!

Mystery #3: Crossword Craze



Crossword Puzzle Word Bank

- HAPPY
- ACTIVIST
- SANCTUARY
- ADOPT
- KINDNESS
- NATURAL
- SAFE
- RESPECT
- VOICE
- TRUTH
- CRUELTY-FREE
- COMPANION
- EMPATHY
- FAMILY
- GUARDIAN
- RESCUE
- LOVE
- INSPIRE

ACROSS

1. We should never be mean to animals. We should always treat them with _____ and respect. (8 letters)
2. _____ means “not tested on animals.” 🐾 (7 letters; 4 letters)
3. A place where animals are safe and well cared for 🐾 (9 letters)
4. Animals don’t want to live in cages or tanks. They want to live in their _____ habitats. (7 letters)
5. Someone who takes care of and protects someone else 🐾 (8 letters)
6. You can use your _____ to speak up for animals. (5 letters)
7. To motivate or encourage someone to do something, especially by making them feel strong emotions (7 letters)
8. The opposite of “lies” (5 letters)

DOWN

9. Instead of buying animals from a store or breeder, we should _____ animals from a shelter instead. 🐾 (5 letters)
10. You have _____ when you’re able to “put yourself in someone else’s shoes” and imagine how they might feel. (7 letters)
11. To have _____ for someone means to accept them for who they are, even if they’re different from you. We should always treat animals with this word and kindness. (7 letters)
12. To save an animal from a bad situation (6 letters)
13. Animals feel _____ when they’re with their loved ones, just as we do. (5 letters)
14. The opposite of “hate” (4 letters)
15. When there is no threat of danger (4 letters)
16. An animal who has been adopted by a human and is cared for; a word to replace “pet” 🐾 (9 letters)
17. When we adopt animals, we make them part of our _____. (6 letters)
18. A person who works to make the world a better place 🐾 (8 letters)



Clues: If you see an animal emoji, you can use the rescue story about that animal to help you find the answer. The number in parentheses is the number of letters that make up the word you’re looking for.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mystery #4: Hidden Word

Instructions: Circle the letters that stand out. Write them down in the order that they appear. Then write the definition of the word they spell out.

The word that's hidden in this reading passage means **c**aring about others, being kind to them, and wanting to help them if they're sick, injured, or in danger of being hurt. Even though **o**ther animals may look different from us, they are the **s**ame in all the ways that matter. They can feel pain, pleasure, fear, and **h**appiness, just like us, so we should **t**reat them with kindness.

Even insect**s** and other tiny animals de**s**erve to be respected. If we find them inside a building, we should carefully catch them and take them out**s**ide. We shouldn't harm them or bully them just because they're smaller than we are. If you see an animal who needs help or pr**o**tection, it's up to you to speak up for them and get them help! Pledge to be a fri**e**nd to animals.

Hidden word: _____

(Write the definition here.)

Take out your circle map and look at the notes you've taken. Based on the evidence you uncovered as a detective, answer the following question:

What are some things you can do to show animals

_____ ?

(Hidden word)

I, Detective _____, pledge to be a friend to all animals, big and small!

Station #3:

Positive Posters— How to Help Animals

Write your own personal message about how to help animals based on what you uncovered during your investigation. The notes you took on your circle map should help you.



Teach*Kind*

Recording Sheet 1

Name: Detective _____

Instructions: Once the teacher has initialed all eight boxes, turn this sheet in for a certificate!

Station #1

Rescue Story: Esther the Wonder Pig	
Rescue Story: Christmas the Puppy	
Rescue Story: Jake's Recovery	

Station #2

Mystery #1:	
Mystery #2:	
Mystery #3:	
Mystery #4:	

Station #3

Poster:	
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Recording Sheet 2

Name: Detective _____

Instructions: Once the teacher has initialed all nine boxes, turn this sheet in for a certificate!

Station #1

Rescue Story: Esther the Wonder Pig	
Rescue Story: Christmas the Puppy	
Rescue Story: Jake's Recovery	
Rescue Story: _____	

Station #2

Mystery #1:	
Mystery #2:	
Mystery #3:	
Mystery #4:	

Station #3

Poster:	
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Recording Sheet 3

Name: Detective _____

Instructions: Once the teacher has initialed all 10 boxes, turn this sheet in for a certificate!

Station #1

Rescue Story: Esther the Wonder Pig	
Rescue Story: Christmas the Puppy	
Rescue Story: Jake's Recovery	
Rescue Story: _____	
Rescue Story: _____	

Station #2

Mystery #1:	
Mystery #2:	
Mystery #3:	
Mystery #4:	

Station #3

Poster:	
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Recording Sheet 4

Name: Detective _____

Instructions: Once the teacher has initialed all 11 boxes, turn this sheet in for a certificate!

Station #1

Rescue Story: Esther the Wonder Pig	
Rescue Story: Christmas the Puppy	
Rescue Story: Jake's Recovery	
Rescue Story: Rescued Rats Find New Home	
Rescue Story: Freddie on the Run	
Rescue Story: Saving Samson	

Station #2

Mystery #1:	
Mystery #2:	
Mystery #3:	
Mystery #4:	

Station #3

Poster:	
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Answer Keys for the Teacher

Answer Sheet: ‘Get Ready to Fall in Love With Esther the Wonder Pig’

1. Why did Derek and Steve welcome a pig into their lives?

Possible answer: They were persuaded by a friend who wanted to find a home for piglet Esther. (Literal)

2. Why did Esther’s dads think she had likely been “meant to be eaten”?

Possible answer: Esther’s dads guessed that she was from a commercial farm, where pigs are raised for people to eat. (Inferential)

3. In what ways was Esther similar to Derek and Steve’s dogs?

Possible answer: Esther learned how to sit for treats, she would sniff out food, and she enjoyed playing and cuddling. (Literal)

4. Why did Derek and Steve choose to go vegan?

Possible answer: They realized that Esther and other animals used for food and the animal companions we often share our homes with, like dogs and cats, are the same in all the ways that matter most—they are thinking, feeling individuals who want to live. Derek and Steve chose to go vegan because they realized it was wrong to care for some animals and eat others. (Evaluative)

Answer Sheet: Christmas the Puppy's First Holiday

1. What was wrong with Christmas when PETA Asia staffers found him?

Answer: Christmas had lice and two infected wounds on his back. (Literal)

2. Why did Christmas' owners agree to give him to PETA?

Answer: Christmas' condition was severe, and his owners knew that he probably wouldn't survive if he were left on the island. (Literal)

3. How do you think Christmas felt before being rescued and then afterward?

What makes you think so?

Possible answer: Christmas was probably very uncomfortable and in pain from his poor condition, and he may have felt scared. After being rescued, Christmas probably felt safe and happy because he was adopted into a loving home and had lots of toys and other dogs to play with. (Inferential)

4. What are some differences between toys and animals?

Possible answer: Toys don't have feelings. They don't require food, water, exercise, or love. But animals do have feelings—just like us, they can feel pain, fear, love, and joy. They also need food, water, exercise, and love in order to survive. (Inferential)

5. Why is it important not to buy animals?

Answer: As long as pet stores and breeders sell animals, healthy animals living in shelters won't find homes. (Literal)

Answer Sheet: Jake's Recovery

1. How did Jake become sick?

Possible answer: Jake's basic needs weren't met at the roadside zoo. (Literal)

2. How do you think the rescue group helped Jake recover?

Possible answer: The rescue group met Jake's basic needs. They probably also gave him love and attention. Like all animals, he needed proper food, clean water, plenty of space to move around, veterinary care, and love. (Inferential)

3. What can people do to make the holidays happy for turkeys?

Possible answer: People can help turkeys by going vegan. There are many vegan foods, including faux-turkey products, that don't involve hurting or killing animals. People can also help turkeys by refusing to support roadside zoos. (Literal)

4. The article says that Jake made a full recovery after he was rescued from a roadside zoo. What's the difference between a roadside zoo and a rescue group or an accredited sanctuary?

Possible answer: Roadside zoos use animals to make money and usually don't take proper care of them. Rescue groups and accredited sanctuaries help animals by giving them the proper care that they deserve. (Evaluative)

Answer Sheet: Rescued Rats Find New Home

1. What are some things that rats and humans have in common?

Answer: Both rats and humans giggle when tickled, fall in love, and risk their lives to save their family members. Rats, humans, and all other animals can also suffer and feel pain. (Literal)

2. What will happen to rats if they don't have companionship?

Answer: Rats who don't have companionship will become lonely and stressed. (Literal)

3. What else do you think rats need to be happy and healthy?

Possible answer: Like all animals, rats need food, water, and a safe, clean place to live. They also need veterinary care, just like cats, dogs, and other companion animals. (Inferential)

4. Do you think it's fair to use animals in experiments? Explain your answer.

Possible answer: I don't think it's fair to use animals in experiments because they're forced to live in small cages, are experimented on, and don't get to play, cuddle, eat their favorite foods, or do anything else they enjoy. People should just buy products that haven't been tested on animals. (Evaluative)

Answer Sheet: Freddie on the Run

1. How did Freddie become famous?

Answer: Freddie escaped from a slaughterhouse in New York City. Videos of him running through the busy streets quickly spread online. (Literal)

2. Why do you think Mike helped Freddie?

Possible answer: He cares about animals and thought that he could persuade the slaughterhouse owner to let Freddie go with him to his sanctuary. (Evaluative)

3. How do you think Freddie felt before being rescued and then afterward? What makes you think so?

Possible answer: Before being rescued, Freddie was probably afraid. He ran away from the slaughterhouse and through the busy, noisy streets of New York City. After being rescued, he probably felt safe and calm because he was no longer in danger. (Evaluative)

4. What can you do to help cows like Freddie?

Answer: You can choose to eat dairy- and meat-free versions of your favorite foods. (Literal)

Answer Sheet: Saving Samson

1. What did Envigo do with the dogs it bred?

Answer: Envigo sold dogs to laboratories to be used in painful experiments. (Literal)

2. Describe what life was like for Samson and the other dogs at Envigo.

Answer: Dogs at Envigo were kept in cages. They weren't allowed to run, play, or do other things that dogs like to do. They were often sprayed with water hoses when workers cleaned their cages, which left them soaking wet and scared. (Literal)

3. How do you think Samson felt before he was rescued and then afterward?

What makes you think so?

Possible answer: Samson was probably scared, confused, and lonely at Envigo because he didn't have any toys or a soft bed and no one was caring for him. He probably felt safe and happy after being rescued because he finally had a loving family who gave him what he needed and allowed him to have fun. (Inferential)

4. Do you think it's fair to use animals in experiments? Explain your answer.

Possible answer: I don't think it's fair to use animals in experiments because they don't get to play, cuddle, eat their favorite foods, or do anything else that they enjoy. People should buy products that haven't been tested on animals. (Evaluative)

5. What can people do to help animals used in experiments?

Answer: People can buy products that haven't been tested on animals. They can look for the bunny logo on product packaging—that means the product is animal test-free. (Literal)

Answer Key for the Teacher

➤ Mystery #4: Hidden Word

The word that's hidden in this reading passage means **c**aring about others, being kind to them, and wanting to help them if they're sick, injured, or in danger of being hurt. Even though **o**ther animals may look different from us, they are the **s**ame in all the ways that matter. They can feel pain, pleasure, fear, and **h**appiness, just like us, so we should **t**reat them with kindness.

Even insect **s** and other tiny animals **d**eserve to be respected. If we find them inside a building, we should carefully catch them and take them **o**utside. We shouldn't harm them or bully them just because they're smaller than we are. If you see an animal who needs help or **p**rotection, it's up to you to speak up for them and get them help! Pledge to be a **f**riend to animals.

Hidden word: **C** **O** **M** **P** **A** **S** **S** **I** **O** **N**

(Write the definition here.)

Take out your circle map and look at the notes you've taken. Based on the evidence you uncovered as a detective, answer the following question.

Caring about others, being kind to them, and wanting to help them if they're sick, injured, or in danger of being hurt

What are some things you can do to show animals compassion?

Possible answer: I can adopt animals from shelters or volunteer at a shelter. I can rescue insects inside buildings and release them outside. I can avoid going to places that keep animals in cages or tanks. I can visit or support sanctuaries instead. I can go "trash fishing" to clean up animals' homes and prevent them from eating litter. I can protect wildlife by leaving them alone instead of trying to touch them or catch them. I can report cruelty to animals. I can treat animals with kindness and respect. I can become an activist and encourage other people to be kind to animals. I can spend time with my dogs and cats and do things they like to do. I can eat more vegetables and other plants instead of eating animals. I can drink plant milk in place of cow's milk.

A Closing Message

Dear Kind Teacher,

We hope you enjoyed transforming your room for Animal Detectives Day! If your students were excited and engaged during this room transformation, it's because they were rescuing animals. If you want to continue, there's more! You can use this room transformation as a springboard for continued learning and empathy building. You don't need to transform your room every day—just use our resources. Send us an e-mail at Info@teachkind.org, and we'll suggest other materials that we think your students would love, all free of charge.

