



Classify It!

Introduction

In the book *Forest Bright, Forest Night*, children are introduced to a variety of forest animals and their behaviors. In this activity, students will classify the animals in the book by mammal, reptile, bird, fish, insect, and amphibian.

Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book, *Forest Bright, Forest Night*, by Jennifer Ward
- ◆ Chart/butcher paper or chalk board/white board with the headings: mammal, bird, fish, insect, amphibian, reptile

Key Concepts

- ◆ Students should analyze in terms of systems.
- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Discuss with students that scientists often group objects, plants and animals by common characteristics so they can be more easily studied and understood.
2. Explain that you will be sharing a book, *Forest Bright, Forest Night*, with a variety of animals in it. Show students the cover of the book. Discuss what types of animals are on the cover.
3. After reading the story, refer to the chart created on butcher paper with the headings: mammal, bird, fish, insect, amphibian, reptile.
4. Explain that each category has certain characteristics. Mammals have fur. Birds have feathers and beaks. Reptiles have scales. Insects have six legs. Fish live under water and have gills. Amphibians live near water and have moist skin.
5. Go through the pages of *Forest Bright, Forest Night* a second time, and classify each animal in the book by the characteristics above.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite children outside to observe and track wildlife. Classify the animals that were sighted.
- ◆ Allow children to cut pictures of animals from wildlife magazines, such as National Geographic or Ranger Rick, and sort and classify them by amphibian, bird fish, insect, mammal, reptile.

Additional Resources

Nocturnal animals are more active at night than during the day. These animals sleep during the day, often in a burrow, den or nest. Additional nighttime animals not shown in the book include:

- ◆ Bats
- ◆ Mockingbirds
- ◆ Mountain Lions
- ◆ Raccoons
- ◆ Rabbits
- ◆ Coyotes

