

Fur, Gills, or Wings?

5th Grade Science

Overview	Students will fully understand the differences between mammals, fish, and birds by using Squareleaf.net to organize and classify each one by their distinguishing characteristics.
Objectives	<p>Following this activity, the students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively use Squareleaf.net for future projects and develop organizational skills. • Explain the three different types of animals and their unique characteristics. • Describe how each of these animal classifications survive using their distinct evolutionary adaptations. • Understand the different ways each group reproduces and the effect that it has on the parent-offspring dynamics. • Fill out a worksheet identifying the main characteristics of mammals, fish, and birds, as well as their means of survival and their methods of reproduction.
Standards	The Living Environment Standard 5.4.7 (Core Standard)
Materials	<p>To complete the activity, students must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer with Internet capabilities • Science textbook describing each group of animal and their qualities • Construction paper and colored pencils
Procedures	<p>Before beginning the project, students should have read the textbook and have the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammals, fish, and birds are distinguishable from one another based on anatomical differences. • The means of survival for each depends on their adaptations (i.e. fur, gills, wings, etc.) <p>First Segment of Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will connect to the Internet and Squareleaf.net and begin a new board. • Using different color notes, they will separate mammals, fish, and birds from one another. • Under each animal heading, students will create a minimum of five notes describing different characteristics.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in one of the notes, they will determine one adaptation that has helped each group survive and a note that indicates the means of reproduction. • Print off the assignment and submit it to the teacher for clarity and correctness. <p>Second Segment of Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the first assignment has been turned in and verified by the teacher, the students will create illustrations of a mammal, a fish, and a bird. • Using their previously printed Squareleaf board, the students will illustrate the different characteristics that they mentioned on their outline. • The illustrations will be designed in a large enough manner so that the physical characteristics of each can be easily depicted. • Upon completion, the student's favorite drawing will be displayed in the room.
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>The students will be graded based on the neatness, completeness, and accuracy of their outline and illustration. A quiz will be given at the end of the unit covering mammals, fish, and birds and the students must determine the proper placement of given characteristics.</p>