### Lesson Plan: Animals

**Animals in the Wild**

**Grade Level:** 5

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<th>Overview</th>
<th>Students will take two class periods to learn about a specific snake; including where they live, what they eat, whether or not they are venomous, and what they look like. Students will learn that not all snakes are the same by reviewing the information found by other classmates.</th>
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| Objectives | 1. Given a specific snake and access to the internet students will be able to complete a search and do research on their snake answering specified questions asked by the teacher with 90% accuracy.
2. Given access to the internet and a friendfeed account, students will join a group created by their teacher designated for their snake research and post their findings making them able to be viewed by their classmates with 100% accuracy.
3. Given access to the internet and a friendfeed account, students will read information posted by their classmates and write a one to two paragraph synopsis on the information of a snake other than theirs with 90% accuracy in information and grammar. |
| Standards | Standard 5.4.7: Explain that living things, such as plants and animals, differ in their characteristics, and that sometimes these differences can give members of these groups (plants and animals) an advantage in surviving and reproducing.
Standard 5.4.4: Explain that in any particular environment, some kinds of plants and animals survive well, some do not survive as well, and some cannot survive at all. |
| Materials | 1. Research material on snake
2. Computer with internet access
3. An account on friendfeed |
| Procedure | 1. Prepare for this activity by writing down the name of various snakes on slips of paper (one for every student, or one for every group depending on how the classroom arrangement works).
2. Also prepare for this activity by having each student set up an account on friendfeed as well as one for yourself. Create a ‘room’ using the left navigational toolbar for the students to post their findings.
3. Review with your students what they know about snakes. Tell students they are going to be researching a specific snake, posting their findings on friendfeed, and reviewing others posts.
4. Allow students or groups of students to draw a slip of paper.
5. Guide students’ research by starting them off with the following questions:
   - Where does the snake live?
   - What does it eat?
   - Is it venomous (poisonous)?
   - What are its colors and patterns?
   Encourage students to use these questions as a starting point but to take their research further.
6. Have each individual or group log onto friendfeed and join the group created by the teacher.
7. Instruct students to post their findings in the room by posting a message.
8. After all postings have been made/Day 2, have students log back onto friendfeed and report on a snake other than their own by writing a paragraph or two about their findings. Encourage students to use their own words and not copy directly from the posting. |
| Evaluation | The students accurately researched their specific snake and answered the given questions as well as went above and beyond to find even more information which will be evident through their posting on friendfeed. Students were able to post their findings on friendfeed so it is able to be viewed by others. By using the posts on friendfeed students should be able to summarize a snake other than their own in paragraph form. |

1Adapted from: http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/animalsinthewild/