

What is a Mammal?

Kolling Elementary School K-5th grade

Lesson Plan 2011

OVERVIEW 	Many students hear the word “mammal” frequently but do not know what a mammal is. Mammals play a key part in the life cycle and are essential to many aspects of everyday life. The purpose of this lesson plan is to give students a full understanding of what a mammal is and how they affect the environment around us. They will meet different people across the globe who have multiple experiences with mammals of different habitats.
OBJECTIVE	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Students will be able to talk to different people across the world who come in contact with various mammals2) Students will learn about each mammal and its habitat through experiences told by the pen pal.3) Students will meet other students like them who want to learn more about mammals
STANDARDS	Explain what a mammal is and how they are created. Ask questions to determine if anyone knows what a mammal is. Give examples of the mammals the students will be viewing through Tokbox
MATERIALS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Resources about mammals i.e. (Books, encyclopedia, Web search)2. Video camera built into computer3. Tokbox account
PROCEDURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Show the class pictures of five very different mammals, such as a cat, kangaroo, horse, lion, and monkey. Explain that all these animals are mammals, and that these are some of the mammals that they will learn about from their pen pals.• Assign each student a specific pen pal through various school corporations around the world. First have them meet their pen pal through Tokbox and get to know them a bit.• Play the mystery mammal game. Give each student one index card. Have each student research his or her assigned mammal using print and online resources. As the children research their mammals, instruct them to jot down 8-10 clues about their animals on the index cards.• Have the students ask their pen pal about their assigned mammal. They can have discussions through Tokbox and be able (together) to come up with 8 facts about the mammal.
EVALUATION	Share experiences with the whole class. Each student should list what they learned and two facts they found out about their pen pal.

¹ Adapted from

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picture source: <http://gtm-media.discoveryeducation.com/videos//images/search/5c57615f-0a21-4c29-9415-51ea65654248.jpg>