

Instructor Sheet
What Makes a Cat a Cat?
Lesson 14

Grade Level(s): Elementary, Middle, High

Duration: Two 45-75 minute periods

Setting: Outdoors and/or indoors (depending on where animals are, if available), ideally need a video camera for filming, use computer/videoclips/videotapes to gather background information

Skills: Research, reporting, video camera filming, comparing similarities and differences, public speaking

Subject Areas: Visual arts, environmental science, life science/biology, language arts

Overview: Students videotape a cat and a dog or other animals and discuss the similarities and differences between these different mammals and their behaviors. (Video of the Florida panther can be watched from Coryi Cinema, or videoclips of animals can be viewed as a class, instead.) What makes a cat a cat?

Site location(s):

Coryi Cinema:

Panther Walking
Florida Crossroads

Natural History:

Relation to Other Cats
Hunting Methods
Vocalizations
Hunting Methods
Rearing of Young

Sunshine State Standards:

Grades 3-5

SC.G.1.2.5 knows that animals eat plants or other animals to acquire the energy they need for survival.

SC.G.2.2.1 knows that all living things must compete for Earth's limited resources; organisms best adapted to compete for the available resources will be successful and pass their adaptations (traits) to their offspring.

LA.B.2.2.1 writes notes, comments, and observations that reflect comprehension of content and experiences from a variety of media.

LA.C.2.2.1 determines main concept and supporting details in nonprint media message.

Grades 6-8

Lesson 14

LA.C.3.3.3 speaks for various occasions, audiences, and purposes, including conversations, discussions, projects, and informational, persuasive, or technical presentations.

LA.B.2.3.1 writes text, notes, outlines, comments, and observations that demonstrate comprehension of content and experiences from a variety of media.

LA.C.2.3.1 determines main concept, supporting details, stereotypes, bias, and persuasion techniques in a nonprint message

Grades 9-12

SC.F.1.4.2 knows that body structures are uniquely designed and adapted for their function

LA.B.2.4.1 writes text, notes, outlines, comments, and observations that demonstrate comprehension and synthesis of content, processes, and experiences from a variety of media.

LA.C.2.4.1 determines main concept and supporting details in order to analyze and evaluate nonprint media messages.

The Activity

Pre-planning:

1. Arrange for the observation of a cat and a dog, or other animals (such as classroom lizards, fish, guinea pigs, or other animals) or reserve relevant film clips from the library.
2. Reserve a computer lab or set up computers in your classroom.
3. Reserve one or more video cameras.
4. Photocopy Student Sheet (optional).

Procedure:

1. Day 1--Instruct students in the use of video cameras. Have students do some trial filming and show the results to practice. (If you do not have animals available to videotape, show videoclips or video from Coryi Cinema on web site.)
2. Assign computers/teams.
3. Hand out student sheets (optional).
4. Watch video footage and allow students to take notes.
5. Day 2-- students get into teams to discuss the similarities and differences in the cat and other animal(s) they studied.
6. Have students address the issue "if you didn't know the difference, how would you know if you had a cat versus another mammal/animal?"

Assessment:

1 bonus point for students observed helping another student to use computer or video camera

4 = Outstanding oral presentation given, student sheet is complete

3 = Oral presentation is given that contains relevant content, student sheet is mostly complete

2 = Student sheet is mostly complete, no oral presentation given

1 = Student sheet is started

0 = Little or no participation

Student Sheet
What Makes a Cat a Cat?
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Name(s) _____

 Class _____
 Date _____

<p>Hot spots! (video) Coryi Cinema: Panther Walking Florida Crossroads</p>	<p>(background information) Natural History: Relation to Other Cats Hunting Methods Vocalizations Rearing of Young</p>
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Directions: During this class period, you will use video footage to analyze the differences in behavior between a cat and another animal. Write notes as you view your film. (If you are analyzing several animals, add a sheet of lined paper with characteristics of the third/fourth animals.)

Animals	CAT	
Physical Characteristics		
Color		
Size		
Shape of head		
Eye size and placement		
Ear size and shape		
Paw/foot description		
Teeth		
Claws		
Tail		

Behaviors		
Feeding/hunting		
Walking/running		
Resting		
Interacting		
Other behaviors observed		

Discussion notes

Similarities:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Differences:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

What makes a Cat a Cat?

How could you be more concise or shed more light on “catness”?
