

Ani-maker



Knowledge
Through
Entertainment

Get children to talk about the characteristics of animals that make them different and special; create their own special animals.

How it works:

- 1 Ask the children to name a favorite animal (doesn't even have to be wild).
- 2 Write the animal's name on the board/screen so the children can look at it later.
- 3 Ask the children what makes this animal special (Does it have wings? Does it have claws? Does it have a really long neck? Is it colorful?). What does it use these special features for (flying, catching prey, reaching food, looking good etc.).
- 4 Add the characteristics (wings, feathers, claws, etc.) to the board/screen.
- 5 Continue making a list of animals and characteristics until you have roughly ten animals listed (more if you like).
- 6 Give each child some paper and drawing materials, and have them create and draw their own animal, with special characteristics and features. Encourage them to think of ridiculous combinations (eg. a lion body + octopus legs + eagle wings + a turtle shell + a rabbit head with 6 eyes). Have them name their animals as well!
- 7 When the children have finished drawing, have them share what their new animal is and why it's special.
- 8 Finish by talking about how it's important to have different animals in the world.

Equipment:

- Paper
- Crayons / felt tip pens / paint (if you are daring!)
- White board / chalk board / drawing board or laptop and screen

Animals were made to be different so that there is a balance for food and places to live.

Some birds live in trees and eat bugs, and other birds live in cliffs along the seaside and eat fish. Some birds make nests on the ground and hide in bushes and grass. Some animals eat meat, and some animals eat plants. Some eat both.

If all animals ate only plants, there wouldn't be enough plants to feed them all; if all animals ate only other animals, we'd run out because they'd all eat each other!