

Title: Antonym Comparison of Animals and Me

Subject: Language Arts

Grade: 3rd -5th

Time: 45 minutes, plus research time

Objectives: Students will understand antonyms and how they're used for binary comparison by researching an animal and making connections to themselves..

Illinois State Standards and Objectives:

1.A.2a Read and comprehend unfamiliar words using root words, synonyms, antonyms, word origins and derivations.

1.A.2b Clarify word meaning using context clues and a variety of resources including glossaries, dictionaries, and thesauruses.

Materials

Pictures of many different types of animal (you may use the photos on the Wilderness Classroom web site or provide your own)

Method:

Introduce what an antonym is, and what purpose antonyms serve in the English language. As a large group develop a list of antonyms. A quick way to do this is to re-write newspaper headlines using antonyms.

Next, create a list of words that describe certain animals. Show the photo and have students use descriptive that describe the animal's appearance, behavior, habits, and habitats.

After you complete a list of descriptive words, have students generate antonyms for each part of the list.

Have students categorize the words as those that would describe the animal, themselves, or both.