

Title: Antonym Comparison of Animals and Me

Subject: Language Arts

Grade Level: 3rd -5th

Time: 45 minutes, plus research time

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

Materials:

Pictures of many different types of animals (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 photos and have students use descriptive words that describe each 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.

Common Core State Anchor Standards:

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.