

#8802

LOOK WHO'S TALKING ... HOW ANIMALS COMMUNICATE

Grade Levels: 7-12

46 minutes

BULLFROG FILMS, INC. 1999

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed

DESCRIPTION

Communication--the ability to send and receive information. Animals communicate in a variety of ways: sound, color, scent, touch, facial expressions, sight, body language, and chemicals. Explores behavior of red-winged blackbirds, ants, honeybees, wolves, and horses to illustrate communication patterns. Suggests that perhaps observing and understanding animal behavior can lead to better communication among humans.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Life Sciences

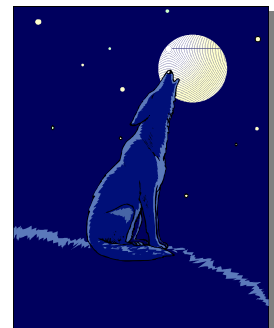
- ◆ Standard: Understands the structure and function of cells and organisms
 - Benchmark: Knows that organisms can react to internal and environmental stimuli through behavioral response, which may be determined by heredity or from past experience

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To present how animals communicate.
2. To examine how individual animals communicate within their own environment.
3. To correlate human and animal communication.
4. To explore the functions of animal communication.
5. To increase the understanding of socialization on animal behavior.

VOCABULARY

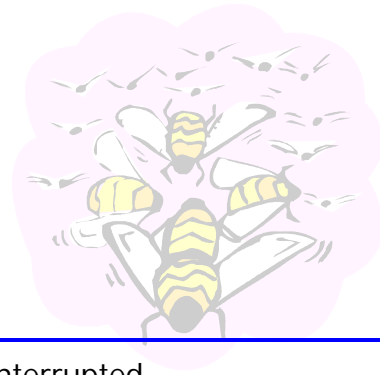
1. autism
2. entomology
3. ornithology
4. predator
5. pupae
6. socialization



BEFORE SHOWING

1. Determine if the viewing of the 45-minute video will be in one or more segments.
2. Discuss communication.

- a. What is *communication*?
 - b. Why is it important and to whom?
 - c. What if there were no ways to communicate?
 - d. Why do animals need to communicate?
3. Review vocabulary words utilized in the video.



DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause after each animal section and allow students to fill in the "How Animals Communicate Worksheet." (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss the completed "How Animals Communicate Worksheet" and expand the discussion to include a comparison and contrast of human and animal language.
 - a. Similarities are: animals and people communicate amongst themselves; many animals use sounds and gestures just as people do and facial gestures are particularly important to both (higher) animals and people.
 - b. Differences are: animal communication is typically immediate, referring to the "here and now" rather than to the future or the past; people use writing and other signs, whereas animals do not typically use or leave visual cues; some animals use smells, which people do not and most animals utter response cries, while people can choose to "hold back."
2. Following up on the communication discussion before showing the video, discuss how this video may have changed the perception of communication.
3. Discuss the socialization of humans and animals.

Applications and Activities

1. Compare and contrast animal and human socialization.
2. Utilizing the Internet or a local news source, find a story in which you think socialization affected the decisions of an animal or a human.
3. Compare and contrast the communication skills of an animal on the "How Animals Communicate Worksheet" and another animal. Create a bulletin board detailing the similarities and differences.
4. View the movie "Antz" or "A Bug's Life." Compare and contrast the ants in the movie to the ants in this video.
5. Lead a class debate on if animals should be treated differently than humans.
6. Take a field trip to the zoo. Observe and discuss how the different animals communicate.
7. Research the communication skills of an animal. Create a report comparing the animal's communication skills to your own.



8. Monty Roberts believes in training horses without pain. Compare his technique to other animal-training techniques.
9. Discover how Sea World trains their animals via the Internet at http://www.seaworld.org/animal_training/atintrobbehav.



RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Animals That Live in Groups #2354
- Beyond Words: Animal Communication #2039
- Coyotes & How They Live #3024

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **WOLF COUNTRY**

<http://www.wolfcountry.net/>

Dedicated to promoting wolf education. Learn more about how wolves live and communicate.

- **HORSE BEHAVIOR**

<http://www.horse-behavior.com/>

Contains information about horse behavior. Learn how horses communicate.

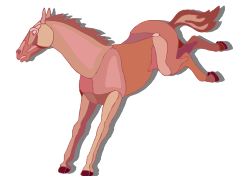
- **CHIMPANZEE AND HUMAN COMMUNICATION INSTITUTE**

<http://www.cwu.edu/~cwuchci/main.html>

The institute is a sanctuary for five adult chimpanzees who communicate with humans and each other using American Sign Language (ASL). In addition, the institute offers a humane education curriculum.

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

- HOW ANIMALS COMMUNICATE WORKSHEET



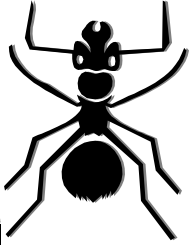
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Captioned Media Program

How Animals Communicate Worksheet



Red-Winged Blackbird



Ants



Honeybees



Timber Wolves



Horses

	Red-Winged Blackbird	Ants	Honeybees	Timber Wolves	Horses
Behavioral Traits					
Communication Traits and Functions					
Type of Social Structure/ Habitat					
Importance of Communication In Environment					
Similarities to Human Communication (including sign language)					