

PHILADELPHIA ZOO

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Animal Nutrition (K-2)

Essential Question

Why do different living things need different foods?

Objectives

1. Understand that different living things obtain nutrients in different ways
2. Recognize that plants need sunlight in order to produce their own nutrients
3. Recognize that animals obtain nutrients by consuming food
4. Understand that each living thing is unique in its nutrition requirements and the way food is obtained
5. Predict what may happen when a living thing is unable to obtain nutrients

Vocabulary

Endangered: A plant or animal species existing in such small numbers that it is in danger of becoming extinct.

Nutrition: the process of obtaining or providing the food necessary for health and growth

Nutrients: a substance that provides nourishment essential for growth and the maintenance of life

Recommendations

Read:

["The Very Hungry Caterpillar"](#) – Eric Carle

["Picky Peggy"](#) – Jennifer Dussling

Research:

-The normal diets of animals that the students are familiar with

-The diet of a Zoo animal that the students are interested in learning more about

Discuss:

-What are some ways that humans are different from other animals in the way we eat?

Classroom Activity

Food Sorting

Use the included worksheets to have students complete the following tasks.

Individually: Have students circle in red the foods that humans usually eat. Then, have them circle in blue the foods that animals usually eat. Some answers will be the same.

In groups: Have students work together in groups to decide what foods are healthy for a rabbit to eat. They should draw lines from the rabbit to the foods that are good for it. They should draw an 'X' over any foods that a rabbit should not eat.

For older students: Students should use the last worksheet to design their own animal diet challenge to have another student complete. Each student should draw an animal in the center, then draw different foods around it. Once complete, they should pass it to a partner. Their partner should draw lines between the animal and foods that are good for it and draw an 'X' over foods that are bad for it.

Standards

PA Academic: 3.1 A2, 3.2 B6, 4.1 C, 4.4 A

Next Generation Science: K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2

New Jersey Core Curriculum: 5.1, 5.3A, 5.3B, 5.3C, 5.3E, 5.4E, 5.4 G

Common Core: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3

Food Sorting

Circle any foods that humans eat **in red**.
Circle any foods that animals eat **in blue**.
Some foods will be circled twice!



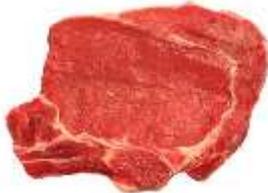
Vegetables



Lettuce



Candy



Meat



Pizza



Fruit



Grass



Eggs

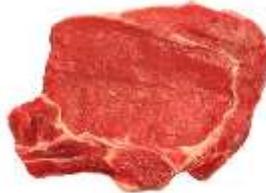


Cake

Work together with a classmate to help feed this rabbit! Decide which foods are good for a rabbit and draw a line from the rabbit to the food. Decide which foods are bad for a rabbit and draw an X over them.



Vegetables



Meat



Fruit



Lettuce



Pizza



Candy



Grass

Now it's your turn! Draw an animal in the center square, then draw different foods around it. Be sure to include good and bad foods for your animal! When you are finished, trade worksheets with a classmate. Complete your classmate's worksheet by drawing lines between the animal and foods that are good for it. Draw an X over foods that are bad for the animal.

