



Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Describe the details of a specific animal-related career.
- Identify ways to research effectively.
- Examine non-fictional information and create a fictional story.

Time Needed

2 class periods
(45 min/period)

Materials

- “Suggested Animal-Related Careers” handout
- Computers
- Paper
- Pens / pencils

Insider Tips

- If possible, invite guest speakers who work in animal-related careers to visit.

Classroom Teachers

- As an extension activity, have students either find images from the internet or draw illustrations to represent the career they wrote about and create an animal-related careers bulletin board.

Outside Humane Educators

- If you do not have access to computers, bring in articles or information about various animal-related careers that the students can use for their research.

Activity 1: A Day in the Life

Overview: Students will choose a specific animal-related career, research information on that career, and write a story about how a person in that particular career would spend a typical workday.

Procedure:

Class Period 1:

Introduction

Let the students know that there are a variety of careers that either work directly with animals or help advocate for animals. Ask the students if they can think of any careers related to helping animals and write their list on the board.

Choosing a career

Provide the students with a list of animal-related careers and ask them to choose one career to research, either from the board or the list provided.

Research

1. Provide the students with guided questions to help them with their research. Let them know that they can start their research by using the internet or gathering information from the library, but they can also try to set up an interview with someone who actually works in the field.
2. Allow the students time to begin researching their career topic using the guided questions.
3. Ask students to complete their research at home on their own.

Class Period 2:

Story Writing

Ask students to begin writing their fictional story based on the information that they gathered. Let them know that they are writing a story about a day in the life of a person with their specific chosen career. Challenge them to incorporate additional details to make the story interesting and realistic.

Wrap Up:

1. Once students have completed their stories, ask if any of them want to share out loud. Allow time for the rest of the class to ask questions.
2. After students have shared their stories, ask if anyone in the class has any interest in pursuing one of the particular careers they learned about.

Suggested Animal-Related Careers

Careers

- Veterinarian
- Veterinary Technician
- Adoption Counselor
- Animal Behaviorist
- Humane Training Specialist
- Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) Officer/
Animal Investigator
- Animal Lawyer
- Animal Caregiver
- Humane Educator
- Wildlife Rehabilitator
- Park Ranger
- Animal Photographer
- Animal Painter
- Development for an animal organization
- Marketing for an animal organization
- Volunteer Coordinator for an animal organization

Guided Questions

1. Why did you choose this career?
2. What experience and/or education did you need for your position?
3. What is your average day like at work?
4. In what ways do you help animals in your position?
5. What is the best part of your work?
6. What is your most memorable experience related to your work?
7. What is the most challenging part about your work?
8. If you could change something about your position, what would it be?
9. What is something important about your career that people do not usually know about?
10. Is there anything else that you want to share about your career?

