



Animal Rhymes

A great way of both introducing concepts of “rhyme” and challenging pupils to use extended vocabulary

A quickfire activity designed to stimulate thinking, develop an understanding of “rhyme” and extend vocabulary. It’s also a great way to introduce science topics looking at animals – and to provide a springboard for poetry writing!

Outcome: greater understanding of “rhyme”, use of extended vocabulary, teamwork

Preparation: download and print one copy of Animal Rhymes (Staff) – and one copy per two pupils of Animal Rhymes (Pupils)

Additional requirements: pencils

Key Stages: KS2

Instructions:

- 1) Organise the pupils into teams of two, giving each team a copy of Animal Rhymes (Pupils) and a pencil.
- 2) Read out the first animal from the Animal Rhymes (Staff) sheet. Tell the teams that they have to think of and write down either any word that rhymes with the given animal (for 1 point) or another animal that rhymes with the given animal (for 2 points).

Animal Rhymes (Staff) lists some of the “animal rhymes” – but is by no means comprehensive! You might like to let the pupils know that both breeds of animal and names for male/female/young animals are acceptable.

- 3) Give teams 90 seconds to come up with and write down a response. Take all responses – and ask teams to note their scores. If (a) your pupils can’t be trusted to record their scores honestly and/or (b) this is likely to cause ructions, undertake all marking at the end of the activity – with teams marking each other’s sheets.
- 4) Repeat for the rest of the animals on Animal Rhymes (Staff) PDF. Before the final one (Tiger), warn teams that there is only one true animal rhyme – but that there is also an animal that almost rhymes (consonance).
- 5) With older children, push pupils’ thinking by offering 3 points for teams who come up with animal rhymes that nobody else gets.

Follow-Up Suggestion:

Why not challenge the pupils to use the fruits of their labour to write their own rhyming Animal Poems?

