

# My A-Z of animals

This lesson will allow the children to explore language and nature by themselves, and to get close to wildlife. The activities will encourage reasoning skills, critical thinking and observational skills as a base for creativity and an appreciation for the natural world.

This activity is best done on a warm, sunny day

 **KS2 Literacy Lesson Plan**  **1 hour**

## Equipment

- Workbooks or paper
- Pens
- Spotting sheets: [www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/spottingsheets](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/spottingsheets)

## Health & Safety

Set the boundaries of the area the children are allowed to explore (*this could be a playing field, or a stretch of hedgerow*). The bigger the better.

## Key learning outcomes

- Development of spelling
- Knowledge of common species
- Understanding of story structure
- Development of handwriting
- Creative writing skills
- Focus on expanding vocabulary
- Observational skills
- Reasoning skills
- Problem solving skills
- Critical thinking skills

Time	Activity
5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Begin the lesson in the classroom by asking the children to write each letter of the alphabet on a new line in their book. They'll need to leave plenty of space after each letter as they will be filling in words.</li> <li>■ You can always fill these in as a group together when you're back in the classroom.</li> <li>■ You might also want to split the class into pairs or small groups. This way they can discuss ideas and bounce off of each other's suggestions.</li> </ul>
20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Take the class outside and encourage them to pay attention to the natural things around them. Ask them to try to fill in their alphabet with the things they can see (for example: G for grass; C for cloud; L for leaf).</li> <li>■ If you can print them off, have a selection of spotting sheets for the children to familiarise themselves with common species of plants, animals and minibeasts.</li> <li>■ Be aware, you might not be able to fill in all the words, but that doesn't matter.</li> <li>■ Remember to set boundaries of the area the children can explore. If your school has a nature area, try to include this. The children will find lots of species here.</li> </ul> <p><b>Have a go yourself and see how many you can get.</b></p>
20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Head back inside and write the alphabet on the board.</li> <li>■ Take suggestions from the children. Not all the words will be natural words.</li> <li>■ Ask the child to describe or explain their word. Are there any synonyms they can use?</li> </ul>
15 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Talk through all the words with the children to reinforce pronunciation.</li> <li>■ This is now your final list of words. Ask the children to copy the words into their books.</li> </ul>

## Homework

The children are to hand-write a story about a day in the life of an animal they can find in the UK, using at least 5 of the words they have written as part of their final alphabet list.