

ANIMALS OF HALLOWEEN

We will explore some of the animals you think are creepy or scary when you think of Halloween, and you will see they are NOT so creepy, you can be less afraid and maybe even like them!

Learning Profile of Students:

Students should be in grades Pre-K to 4th grade.

PA Core Standards:

Standard - 3.1.PK.A1

Recognize the difference between living and non-living things.

Standard - 3.1.PK.A5

Name basic parts of living things.

Standard - 3.1.PK.A9

Ask questions about objects, organisms, and events. Participate in simple investigations to answer a question or to test a prediction. Use the five senses and simple equipment to gather data.

Standard - 3.1.K.A5

Observe and describe structures and behaviors of a variety of common animals.

Prerequisite skills/knowledge needed for this lesson:

Students will need to know some common animals associated with fall/Halloween.

Materials Needed:

Book

Live spiders, spider puppet

Bat skeleton, bat puppet, mosquito paper roll

Owl eye softballs, stuffed owl, owl pellet, sounds of owls

Teaching Procedure/Sequence:

Anticipatory Set:

- Safety review: hand wash pledge, allergies to feathers, treat dead animals gently, do not shake or open spider container
- What animals do you think of when you think of Halloween?
 - o Bats, crows, owls, black cats, wolves, spiders

- Today we are going to explore some of those animals, and you will see they are NOT so creepy, you can be less afraid and maybe even like them!

Development:

READ STORY

Owl:

What makes an owl spooky? (Hold up owl)

- Big eyes
 - Get out softballs to represent eyes
 - See 50-100 times better than humans
- Head that turns almost the whole way around: have students try to turn their heads around
- Eerie calls
 - Play calls of the Barred Owl and have students repeat it: "Who cooks for you"
 - Play calls of the Eastern Screech Owl and have students repeat it
 - Why do they have calls?
 - Attract a mate
 - Defend their territory
- Talons
 - Show how sharp they are to catch their prey
- Pass around stuffed owl and skull
- Inspect an owl pellet. Owls eat their food practically whole, but they cannot digest fur and bones. So, it doesn't leave their belly and they vomit the fur and bones in the form of an owl pellet!

Bat:

- What makes bats creepy? (Costume, skeleton)
- Wings don't have feathers
 - They are the only true flying mammals
- Carry rabies
 - Can carry rabies, so if you find a bat do not touch it. Contact the Center for Wildlife Care
- Get in hair
 - Although bats may occasionally fly very close to someone's face, they do not get stuck in people's hair. Their ability to echolocate is so accurate that they can avoid objects no wider than a piece of thread.
- Fly at night: nocturnal, best time to catch bugs, they can see almost as well as we can, but at night their ears are more important than sight.
- Suck blood

- Are bats vampires? NO
- Are there vampire bats? YES
 - They do not live here
 - They feed mostly on animals, especially farm animals
- Bats do eat insects that suck our blood, mosquitos are like vampires and bats are mosquito killers which is good for us!
- Bats do have sharp teeth because they are predators
- What do bats eat?
 - Insects
 - A little brown bat can eat up to 600 insects per hour! That is 4,500 insects per night!
 - If a human ate that much, it would be about 50 pizzas per night.
 - Bats are mammals
 - They are warm blooded
 - They have babies called pups
 - The pups are very large, 20-25% of their mother's body weight
 - That would be like a 120-pound woman giving birth to a 30-pound baby
 - Bats also nurse their young, they get milk from their mothers
 - Bats actually help us
 - They eat mosquitos that carry disease and can make us sick
 - They eat grasshoppers and other insects that destroy farmers crops that feed us
 - The bat population is declining
 - Save their habitat: they need streams, forests, fields and marshes to forage for insects
 - Keep your cat indoors: cats will kill bats and birds
 - White nose syndrome:
 - Fungus that kills bats
 - Has killed millions of bats
 - Stay out of their homes: caves and mines where they hibernate
 - Report unusual behavior in bats: if you see one roosting or flying out in daylight, or a bat unable to get off of the ground
 - Reduce disturbance to natural habitats around your home
 - Reduce outdoor lighting
 - Minimize tree clearing
 - Protect streams and wetlands
 - If bats are in your home and you don't want them there, contact your local natural resource agency to remove them without hurting them after the end of the maternity season

Spider:

- What makes a spider so creepy crawly? (Live spiders and puppet)
- 8 legs
- Webs
 - They have special holes in their butts
 - Some strands are sticky so that they can build the web and have it stick together, also to catch insects
 - Their prey gets caught in the web, they wrap it up like a mummy and suck the juices out when they get hungry, or they store it for later
 - Why doesn't a spider get caught in its own web? They have special oil on their feet, so they don't stick to it
- Poisonous
 - In Pennsylvania we have the black widow and brown recluse that are poisonous. The brown recluse is also very rare and usually only comes into Pennsylvania in shipments of food
 - The wolf spider bite can cause pain but is usually not very harmful
 - The bite of a black widow can cause more pain for about four days, death can occur in the elderly or very young but is very rare

Closure:

POEM: (repeat after me)

- Animals of Halloween can be a fearsome sight.
- Some look so weird you'd be afraid to meet them in the night.
- But once you understand them, you will surely see...
- They eat a lot of pests for the likes of you and me!

Adaptations for students with special and individual needs:

Lessons will be adapted as per student's IEP.

Evaluation of Student Learning:

Student learning will be evaluated by in-class questioning during the lesson.