# Animal characteristics

## Year 1 science

### Australian curriculum Learning objectives

* [ACSSU017](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/ACSSU017)[[1]](#footnote-1) Living things have a variety of external features

### Resources required

* [At the Zoo - Music by English With A Smile (EWAS)](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7uWsbcxHHQ)[[2]](#footnote-2) (Duration: 2.00)
* [Identifying animals worksheet](http://www.capthat.com.au/sites/default/files/files/Animal%20characteristics%20worksheet.docx)[[3]](#footnote-3)

Lesson outcome: Students learn that animals and plants have a range of physical features which make them easily differentiable.

Lesson outline:

1. Introduce lesson with *At the Zoo – Music by English With A Smile (EWAS)* video.
2. Facilitate class discussion about what animals students saw in the video.
3. Students complete worksheet in which they note the names of the animals they saw in the video.
4. Explain what is meant by the term ‘features’. Provide an example verbal description of the features of an animal with which students are familiar, e.g. a dog has four paws and fur, reinforced by pictures.
5. In pairs, students then choose one animal from the video/worksheet and talk together about what features they know about the animal.
6. Volunteer students tell the rest of the class about the features of their chosen animal.
7. Brainstorm the reasons why animals have different features, and highlight especially relevant factors such as habitat.
8. Students choose an animal which hasn’t been discussed in the class to be the basis of a new project. The project will involve students creating a collage about a particular animal which includes images and a description of five features of the animal.

### Homework/extension

* Students complete online activity: [Plant and animal differences](http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/gamesactivities/plantanimaldif.html)[[4]](#footnote-4)
* Students begin their project on a new animal by finding three images of the animal.

### Opportunity for further activity

Students view [Classifying Animals animation](http://www.brainpopjr.com/science/animals/classifyinganimals/). Further activities around animal classification can be found on the [Sheppard Software Games for Kids! website](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/kidscorner_games.htm).[[5]](#footnote-5)

1. <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/ACSSU017> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7uWsbcxHHQ&cc=1> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.capthat.com.au/sites/default/files/files/Animal%20characteristics%20worksheet.docx> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/gamesactivities/plantanimaldif.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/kidscorner_games.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)