

Activity 9



FARM CAT, CITY CAT - A VERY SPECIAL CAT



STUDY QUESTION:

What's the difference between owning a barn cat and a house cat?

THE ACTIVITY:

In this activity children make puppets and use them to tell each other about their impressions of farm and city life.

SUBJECT AREA:

Science

CURRICULUM CONCEPTS:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Read a variety of materials: charts.

Use creative dramatization and dialogue.

SCIENCE

Plants and Animals: describe and classify animals.

AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS: Animals as pets: animals as workers.

PURPOSE

To introduce children to the differences and similarities between an animal that is a pet and one that is a worker.

To give children the opportunity to use dramatization as a means of expressing their ideas and feelings.

To give children the opportunity to further improve their language skills (reading).

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Paper bags, socks or hankies for making puppets.

Picture with personality profiles of a barn cat and a house cat. Supplied in this activity.

TIME REQUIRED:

2 class periods.



PROCEDURE

Part One

Introduction

Bring two puppets into class that represent a farm cat and a city cat. Through the puppets, explain to the children what each cat most enjoys about his life.

Part Two

Preparation

Examine the personality sketches of a barn cat and a house cat. Highlight the differences.

Making Puppets

Organize the children into pairs. One of each pair will make a country cat puppet and one a city cat. Encourage them to make their cats noticeably different.

Part Three

Puppet Show

Have each pair of children prepare and practise a short scene about a meeting between their two cats.

Part Four

Conclusion

Have a puppet show, noting the ways that children show the differences between farm and city cats.

FOR DISCUSSION

What are the similarities between these two cats and their lives?

What are the differences between the two?

Is the attention received from the people by the City Cat different from that of the Farm Cat?

What adaptations would these cats need to make in order to live in the other environment?

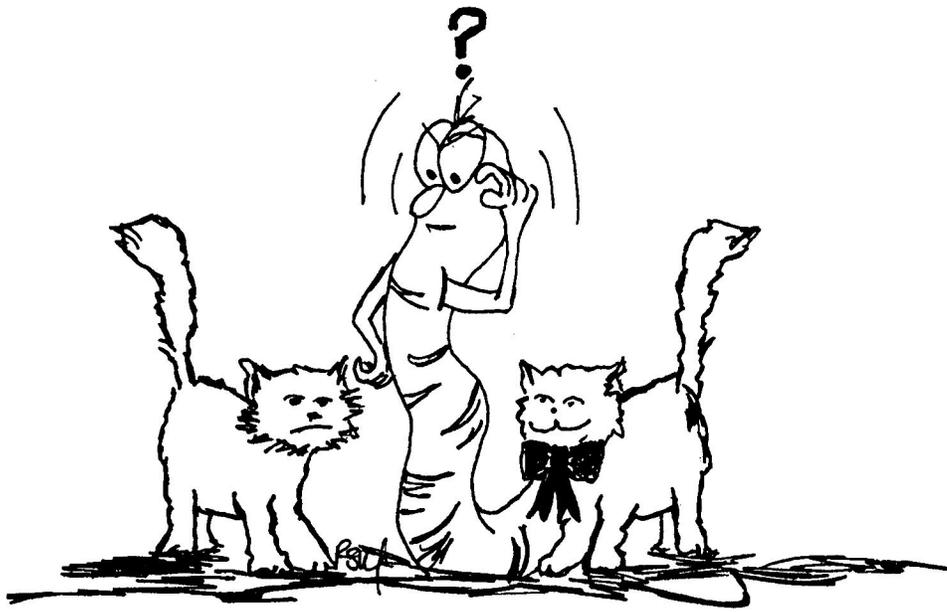
EVALUATION STRATEGIES

Use the scene that the children do as a method of evaluation.

Have the children write a short story from the cat's point of view about a normal day for the cat (what he does - how he feels). Have them pick one of the two types of cats for the story.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Write short poems about the theme or about a different farm animal or pet. Share the poems and have the children illustrate them for a class anthology.
2. Make puppets of other farm animals and play out their lives with the farm children who are their masters.
3. Read the story *The Country Mouse and The City Mouse* in which the country mouse goes to visit the city mouse.



FARM CAT AND CITY CAT: PERSONALITY PROFILES



Mouser

- sharp toenails
- lives mainly outdoors
- main job is to hunt mice
- large territory - freedom to roam
- eats the mice that he finds
- a worker and a pet



Companion

- clipped toenails
- lives inside for the most part
- main job is to be a companion
- small territory - house
- eats special cat food left by his owner
- a pet and a showpiece

Each cat has duties in the family.

Each one is special to its people.