



Observing

Go for a walk in a meadow, a park or a forest and find or observe the animals that live there. Analyze those characteristics that help them adapt to their environment.

The students work in groups. Each group receives the following:

- 3 containers for keeping animals in
- a net for catching insects/a butterfly net
- a worksheet on which they should write down the results of their observations.

The students will spend around 15 minutes looking in the area for different creatures, catching invertebrates and observing vertebrates. During this task they will learn about the environment the creatures live in. The captured animals should be placed in separate containers, as otherwise they may try and prey on each other.

The students fill out the worksheets based on their observations. They should analyze those characteristics of their animals that allow them to survive in a given environment – the kind of coloration they have, their wings and legs, their modes of feeding. Explain to them beforehand or during the course of the lesson what kind of coloration or limbs they may have. If necessary, explain as they go along or provide the students with more details on this topic, help them describe animal characteristics.

The students describe their observations – the aim of the task is to learn about the diversity of the animals living in the same environment. The students don't have to know the specific names of the different kinds of legs creatures have, etc. It is only important that they observe the different adaptive features of different animals.

Remember to set free any animals you catch.