

Instructional Unit Title: Organisms and Offspring

Science
1st Grade

The teacher may brainstorm with students the characteristics of living and non-living things so that students can create class definitions for these two categories.

The teacher may lead an investigation involving different (plant) seeds so that students can begin to connect unique seeds with (the development of) unique plants.

The teacher may lead a discussion about plants and their seeds so that students can begin identifying the life cycle of a plant.

The teacher may initiate a plant growth lab experience so that students can understand how to use observations to collect data.

The teacher may use personal family photos so that students can begin to examining inherited family traits and variations in characteristics (e.g., hair and eye color, face shape, noses, ears).

The teacher may provide examples of animals and offspring (e.g., picture books, videos) so that students can begin identifying distinct patterns of inheritance.

Teacher may provide photographs or examples of various species of animals (e.g., Fish, amphibians, mammals, birds, reptiles) and lead a discussion so that students can describe, identify, and categorize animals by unique characteristics.

The teacher may have students brainstorm animals and their offspring so that students can begin categorizing egg-laying versus live birth animals.

Teacher Note: This learning experience depends on students' ability to access family photos. Teachers will need to determine if everyone in their class can participate before endeavoring to use this learning experience.

The teacher may solicit family photos along with data collected from students' families regarding inherited traits (e.g., eye color, hair color, etc.) so that students may analyze and synthesize similarities and differences within their family traits.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: Your community is opening a brand new zoo dedicated to gorillas, baboons, chimpanzees, and orangutans. During the train ride to your community, all the babies from these animals got separated from their parents. Using photographs, your job, as budding animal scientists, is to reunite the babies with their parents based on similar patterns of inheritance.

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples>.