

Animal Research

Grades: 3-6

Subject: Life cycles
Language arts

Materials: *This Is How I Grow*
Animal Research Worksheet
Animal Vignette Worksheet
Resource List
Computer with internet access

Next Generation Science Standards

- K-LS1-1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

- 1-LS1-2: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

- 3-LS1-1: From molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Common Core English Language Arts

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY. CCRA.W.2: Text Types and Purposes

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY. CCRA.W.7: Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Background

This book tells the stories of eight different mammals, but there are over eight million known animal species on Earth. In this activity, students will research an animal of their choosing and write a vignette about that animal's childhood like those in *This Is How I Grow*.

A **vignette** is a short description that gives an impression of a person, thing, or event. It's kind of like a picture you paint with words.

Activity

1. Read *This Is How I Grow* together. Discuss the information that's presented about each animal and the style of each animal story. Ask the following questions:
What is consistent between each animal story? (Hint: each animal talks about their birth, breastfeeding, weaning, and acquisition of basic skills.)
How is the information presented? (Hint: it's told from the animal baby's point of view. This is called first person.)
2. Assign each student an animal not included in the book, or allow them to choose their own. Distribute the Animal Research Reputable Resources Worksheet. Help students find appropriate resources for their research. Visit a library or direct them to other reputable online sources if you wish.
3. Once research is complete, distribute the Animal Vignette Worksheet. Using their completed Animal Research Worksheet, students will convert the animal information into a vignette like those in *This Is How I Grow*.

Discussion

1. Ask the students why they chose their animal. What do they like about that animal? What did they know about that animal before they researched it?
2. What did they learn about their animal? What's their favorite fact about the animal they chose?



This activity is excerpted from the Teacher's Guide to:

This Is How I Grow

Hardback: 978-1-938492-10-5
Paperback: 978-1-938492-08-2
eBook: 978-1-938492-09-9

Así Crezco

Paperback: 978-1-938492-27-3
eBook: 978-1-938492-28-0

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Animal Research: Reputable Resources List

- Defenders of Wildlife, a conservation organization saving wildlife by protecting and restoring species and their habitats ([Defenders.org/Animal-FactSheets](https://defenders.org/Animal-FactSheets))
- American Society of Mammalogists, a society of scientists devoted to studying mammals and publishers of the *Journal of Mammalogy* ([Mammalogy.org](https://mammalogy.org))
- Animal Diversity Web, a database of animal natural history, distribution, classification, and conservation biology from the University of Michigan (AnimalDiversity.org)
- The Encyclopedia Britannica, the world's oldest general knowledge English-language encyclopedia (Britannica.com)
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, a comprehensive compilation of information on the global conservation status of animal, fungi, and plant species (IUCNRedList.org)
- National Geographic (also National Geographic Kids), a global nonprofit dedicated to helping understand the world and generating solutions for a more sustainable future (NationalGeographic.com/Animals or Kids.NationalGeographic.com/Animals)
- Nature Works, an online resource developed by New Hampshire PBS in collaboration with the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (NHPTV.org)
- San Diego Zoo (also San Diego Zoo for Kids), a conservation organization committed to saving species around the world (Zoo.SanDiegoZoo.org or Kids.SanDiegoZoo.org/Animals)
- Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, a conservation zoo and research facility in Washington, DC (NationalZoo.si.edu/Animals/List)
- The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, an organization devoted to understanding the natural world and our place in it (NaturalHistory.si.edu)
- Western Wildlife Outreach, a science-based community education project specializing in large carnivores of the Western United States (WesternWildlife.org)
- The World Wildlife Foundation, the leading agency working to protect nature and the future of our planet (WorldWildlife.org)

Animal Research: Worksheet

Animal name: _____

What do they look like? _____

What do they eat? _____

Are they omnivores, herbivores, carnivores, or insectivores? (circle one)

Are they social or solitary? (circle one)

Life Cycle

How long is their gestation?

When do they open their eyes?

When do they stand up?

When do they sample their first food?

When do they stop breastfeeding?

When do they leave their family?

Animal Vignette: Worksheet

Animal name: _____



Draw a picture of your animal.

I grow up _____

Birth fact: _____

Food fact:

When I'm _____ old and able to _____
_____, I will be all grown up.