

English in Mind

Level 5 Project 1

An illustrated talk: animal behaviour



You are going to give a talk in groups about animal behaviour.

1 Choose an animal group

- a) Look at the photos of animals. Discuss them using these questions to help you.
 - What is interesting about the way they behave?
 - How do they hunt?
 - How do they communicate?
 - What special skills and abilities do they have?
 - How do they use colour?
 - What kind of instinctive behaviour do they show?
 - Think of some other groups of animals that show interesting behaviour patterns.
- b) Work in small groups. Choose a group of animals (e.g. big cats, bees, birds of prey, apes, ants, wolves).
- c) Brainstorm any species you know that belong to this group (e.g. big cats: lions, leopards, jaguars). Discuss what you know about them already – think about their appearance, habitat, geographical distribution, diet, natural enemies.
- d) Draw a mind map showing what you have discussed.
- e) Each member of the group chooses one species to research further.

2 Do your research

- a) Find out as much as you can about your chosen species, using information books or the internet. Write notes focussing particularly on interesting aspects of their behaviour. These might include:
 - **Social structure**
Do they work alone or as a group? How is the group structured? Which members are dominant?
 - **Adaptation**
In what ways are they well-adapted to their environment? How important is colour? Are males and females different? Are any of their senses highly developed?
 - **Hunting**
Who does the hunting? How do they go about it?
 - **Communication**
How do they communicate with each other or with those outside the group (e.g. predators)?
 - **Defensive behaviour**
How do they react when threatened?
 - **Mating**
What kinds of rituals do they use when mating? Do the males compete for females?
 - **Breeding**
How do they protect and defend their young?
 - **Other aspects of their behaviour**
What else is special or interesting about the way they behave?
- b) Find some pictures of your chosen species which you could use in your talk.

English in Mind

Level 5 Project 1

An illustrated talk: animal behaviour

3 Prepare your talk

- a) Take your information back to the group and compare what each of you has found out about the different species. How are they similar? In what ways do they behave differently? What is special about them?
- b) You will give the talk together as a group, focussing on animal behaviour across your chosen species. Decide who will talk about which aspects, e.g. social structure, hunting, communication etc.
- c) Prepare your section of the talk. Write your notes using clear, simple English. Avoid using difficult specialist or technical terms if possible. If they are necessary, then make sure you explain them clearly for your classmates. Do not copy sections of text from books or the internet. Re-write the information in your own words.
- d) Decide as a group how you are going to present your visual material. It could be in the form of a presentation or poster.
- e) Take time to practise giving your section of the talk. Give each other helpful suggestions on ways to improve. Then practise putting it all together.

4 Give the talk

- a) One member of the group should introduce the topic, explaining which animals you have chosen to talk about and giving a little information on what they look like, where they live, etc. They should also introduce the group members, indicating who will focus on which particular aspects of behaviour in their section of the talk.
- b) Although you will have your notes in front of you, try not to look down at them too much. Hold your head up and speak out clearly. Underline or highlight important information so that you will see it easily if you need to check quickly.
- c) Refer to the visual material when appropriate. Get another member of the group to help you with it, if necessary.
- d) At the end of your talk, encourage your audience to ask questions. Answer them as best you can, but don't be afraid to say you don't know! Direct them to the sources of information you used (books, magazines, internet websites) if they want to find out more.
- e) After all the groups have given their talks, discuss what interesting facts you have learnt.