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Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities @ Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence RI 02908
401 456-8072 Ph. 401 456-8773 TDD 401 456-8150 FAX
www.sherlockcenter.org
Whales

Are they a fish or a mammal?
Whales

Are they a fish or a mammal?
Whales live in the ocean which makes some people think they are fish.
Whales are mammals not fish.
Whales are warm-blooded and need air to live.
Whales need air to breathe just like we do!
A whale swims to the water's surface and
breathes through a blowhole.
Whales give birth to live young and feed their babies milk.
Whales have hair on their bodies which is another indication that they are mammals.
Now you know that whales are mammals not fish!
Life Science

LS3.1.2 Recognize that some organisms are better adapted for specific environments than other organisms.
   2a. Match animals to their environment.
LS1.1.7 Classify organisms- Recognize one or more major group organisms from a selection of different organisms.
LS1.1.6 Associate the external features of animals with their functions.

A Science Investigation includes 4 components:
- Observing/questioning
- Planning
- Conducting
- Analyzing

Observing/Questioning
- Watch a video about mammals which include marine mammals.
- Have several books available for the students that are specific to whales.
- Create a prediction board that has a variety of classes displayed. (fish, reptiles, amphibians...)
- Discuss the two main shared characteristics of all mammals.
- Read the book *Animals Born Alive and Well* by Ruth Heller. Make predictions on why certain animals are considered mammals.
- Read the book *Possum Come a-Knockin* by Nancy Van Laan. Ask students if a possum would be a good pet. Get students talking about habitats and why certain animals need certain conditions to live.
- Ask the students to imagine a whale waking up and finding himself in the mountains.

Planning
- Teacher will draw a Venn diagram on the board and each student will have his/her own.
- Each student will need to place certain facts about a fish versus a whale in each circle.
• A conversation about the differences and similarities will commence.
• Based on their predictions, students will use the computer to investigate facts about fish and whales.
• Students will be shown many pictures of people, fish, whales, snakes, insects and other species and asked what species are considered mammals.

**Conducting**
• Take a field trip to the zoo to explore animals and their habitats.
• Watch a video about mammals and whales.
• Set up a section in the classroom that is used to explore the world of mammals and whales.
• Create a habitat for a fish. This can be used to see how a fish lives on a daily basis.
• Students will collect data on what they notice on a daily basis.

**Analyzing**
• Students will check on their original predictions about how fish live.
• All data will be collected and reviewed by the students.
• Students will make comparisons of each others data.
• Questions such as can we live like a fish will be asked of the students.
• Discussions will be used to further examine the differences between fish and whales.

**Adaptations for students with significant challenges:**
• Team students together in a co-operative way according to ability.
• Allow students a chance to touch various types of materials utilized at the science center.
  1. Fur
  2. Scales
  3. Water
  4. Eggs
  5. Dirt
  6. Sand
• Give all students an opportunity to understand what they need to live.
  1. Food
  2. Air
  3. Clothing
• Have them compare this to what a whale needs.
• Have picture cards available displaying these needs.
1. A whale is a __________.

Fish

mammal

reptile

2. Whales breathe through their __________.

mouth

nose

blowhole

ears
3. Whales bodies have hair? yes or no

4. Whales lay eggs? yes or no

5. Baby whales drink milk? yes or no

6. Whales are cold blooded? yes or no