Lesson Plan

Blood-Sucking Trivia

Book: *Blood-Eating Animals*
Series: Weird Animal Diets
Level: Beacon

Objective
To have students work in groups to answer multiple-choice questions about blood-eating animals.

Supplies
- *Blood-Eating Animals* book
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity
Read *Blood-Eating Animals* out loud to students.

Activity
Divide the students into three teams: Team Fly, Team Crawl, and Team Swim. Give each team a sheet of paper, and ask students to write the numbers one through ten down the left side. Team members will work together to answer ten questions about blood-eating animals. Explain that you will read each question out loud. Then you will read four answer choices. Members of each team should work together to figure out which letter is the correct answer. Students should write this letter next to the number on their paper. Use the following list of questions, in which the correct answers appear in bold:

1. The West Nile virus is carried by what kind of animals?
    a. vampire bats
    b. oxpeckers
    c. mosquitoes
    d. fleas
2. What animal is the only mammal that eats nothing but blood?
    a. vampire bat
    b. sea lamprey
    c. leech
    d. tongue-eating louse

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3. Doctors have used what kind of animals to treat people's wounds?
    a. bedbugs
    b. leeches
    c. vampire moths
    d. oxpeckers
4. Why did kissing bugs get their name?
    a. The bugs always eat in pairs.
    b. The bugs lick people instead of biting them.
    c. The bugs often bite people's hands.
    d. The bugs often bite people's faces.
5. What animal has the protein draculin in its saliva?
    a. vampire bat
    b. oxpecker
    c. kissing bug
    d. mosquito
6. What does the protein draculin do?
    a. It acts as a poison.
    b. It makes people hungry.
    c. It turns people into vampires.
    d. It keeps blood from clotting.
7. What animal eats mosquitoes that have sucked blood?
    a. vampire moth
    b. blood-eating jumping spider
    c. oxpecker
    d. sea lamprey
8. How can fleas spread disease?
    a. by scratching the host
    b. with their wings
    c. through their bites or poop
    d. by getting squished
9. What does a sea lamprey use to hook onto a fish?
    a. its soft tongue
    b. its sharp claws
    c. its rings of teeth
    d. its long tail
10. What does a tongue-eating louse do after a fish's tongue falls off?
    a. The louse dies.
    b. The louse stays inside the mouth and acts as the fish's tongue.
    c. The louse eats the fish's cheeks.
    d. The louse leaves the fish to find a new host.

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Evaluation

After you have read all ten questions, go back through the list and reveal the correct answers. As you do, each group should keep track of its score. The group with the most correct answers wins.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grades 3 and 4 (RI 3.1, 4.1).

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