

## Animal Olympians

### **Main Points/Rationale**

This lesson will introduce students to animals that have the ability to jump far or run quickly. It will give them the opportunity to compare themselves and their adaptations to animals. This lesson plan is best suited to a playground or gymnasium.

### **Objectives**

Students will be able to count and measure physical behaviors such as the number of times they have flapped their arms or the length they can jump from a running start in order to complete a worksheet of eight questions.

Students will be able to compare and contrast several physical behaviors or characteristics, such as their height to that of the tallest giraffe in order to determine how animals are adapted to their life style and environment.

### **Standards**

PA Standards

2.5 Mathematical Problem Solving; 3.2 Inquiry and Design; 3.3 Biological Sciences; 4.7 Adaptations, Endangered Species; 10.4 Physical Activity

### **NJ CCCS**

2.5 Motor Skill Development; 4.2 Geometry and Measurement; 5.1 Scientific Processes; 5.3 Mathematical Applications; 5.5 Life Science

### **Prior Knowledge**

ability to use a tape measure and stop watch

### **Materials & Equipment**

tape measures; stop watches or watches with a second hand; Animal Olympian Worksheet

### **Warm-Up - 2 3 minutes**

Connect the lesson plan to the vocabulary.  
Review the idea of adaptation.

### **Transition**

Now that the class has reviewed the worksheet, begin their animal Olympians challenge.

### **Activity One - Animal Olympians - 20-25 minutes**

Have eight stations set up with pens or pencils, tape measures and stop watches. At each station designate one of the activities the students are to complete.

Break the students up into eight groups. The groups will take turns at the different stations measuring their height or counting how many times they can flap their arms in ten seconds.

**Transition**

As the groups finish, have them return to their seats with their papers.

**Activity Two - What can those animals do? Why do they do that? - 10 minutes**

Review worksheets with the students.

For each of the animals listed on the worksheet, ask the students: Why do you think they need to be able to do that?

Examples:

Why are giraffes so tall? What do they eat?

Do you think a bullfrog always jumps 42 feet in one hop?

**Transition**

Discuss with the class other adaptations of the animals.

**Closing - 2-3 minutes**

Review the idea of adaptation again.

**Additional Activities**

Students can be assigned animals from their worksheets to research in depth and prepare reports on them and their adaptations.

**References**

Philadelphia Zoo, Animal Olympians Lesson Plan

Ocean Olympians, A Sea World Education Department Resource,

<http://www.seaworld.org/just-for-teachers/guides/ocean-olympians/100-meter-run.htm>