Animal Research Project  
(Collaborative Lesson between Librarian and First Grade Teachers)  
First Grade EXCEL students

Objectives:

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the animal researched by:

presenting information gathered in written format  
presenting information gathered in an oral presentation

Overview of Content Standards:

Technology Standards for First Grade ...concepts introduced
2. Students will identify and use the shift key and pronunciation keys.  
3. Students will type words, paragraphs, and compositions as appropriate for grade level.

Technology Standards for First Grade ...concepts reinforced
1. Students will demonstrate responsible use of technology equipment.  
2. Students will demonstrate respect for the computer work of others.  
3. Students will access software from local drives, CDs.

Technology Standards for Second Grade
4. Students will print files.

English SOL
Reading:
VA SOL1.12 The student will write to communicate ideas.  
VA SOL11.9 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction.

Oral Language:
VA SOL1.3 The student will adapt or change oral language to fit the situation.  
c) Use appropriate voice level in small-group settings.  
d) Ask and respond to questions in small-group settings.

Science SOL
VA SOL1.5 The student will investigate and understand that animals, including people, have life needs and specific physical characteristics and can be classified according to certain characteristics. Key concepts include:
life needs (air, food, water, and a suitable place to live);  
physical characteristics (body coverings, body shape, appendages, and methods of movement); and other characteristics (wild/tame, water homes/land homes).

Technology/Media Components:

Software:
Title: Appleworks word processing software  

NET TV
**Student Materials:**

**Per student:**
- labeled (student name) individual student folders to collect project papers (1)
- pencils (1)
- animal research information gathering sheet (1)
- animal research selection sheet (1)
- sheets for animal research final project (habitat, appearance, predators, food …1 each per student)
- glossary sheets (1)
- student rubric (1)
- computer and software:
  - Access to a computer station with CD and Appleworks (1 each per student station)

**Per group:**
- Zoo book magazines and other print materials (see attached bibliography)
  - Each table group will have print materials for their animals (mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds)

**Teacher Preparation:**

**Librarian:**
- Create labeled (student name) individual student folders to collect project papers
- Locate print materials and software (see attached bibliography)
- Create animal research info gathering sheets (one per student)
- Create animal research selection sheets (one per student)
- Create animal research report cover samples for each computer station (4)
- Create insert page samples for crediting source of cover picture (4)
- Create sheets for animal research final project (habitat, appearance, predators, food …one each per student)
- Create animal information glossary sheets (one per student)
- Create labels for animal table groups (mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds … one each per student)
- Create student rubric (one per student)
- Create Teacher/Librarian rubric (4)
- Pencils (one per student)
- NET TV and computer (1 of each)

**Teachers:**
- Prior classroom instruction on animals (mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds)
- Obtain binding supplies to complete final project
List of Activities/Tasks:

Lesson 1 Type of activity: Explicit Teaching and Research Projects/Inquiry/Reports (duration: 1 hour)

Students visit library to begin the research process

Librarian:
- Introduce the concept of research
- Distribute labeled student research folders
- Review animal information glossary and animal groups (mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds)
- Distribute and explain student rubric
- Use a computer station and the Net TV to:
  - Introduce Animal Encyclopedia CD
  - Review Appleworks word processing with entire group
- Provide students with print material (magazines and books) to read on animals
- Provide students with animal research selection sheet
- Provide students with student rubric and review expectations

Students:
- Browse/read materials

Teachers:
- Follow-up
  - Allow class time for students to fill in animal research selection sheet.
  - Instruct students that they must choose one animal from each group.
  - Give completed sheets to librarian who will assign one animal per student.
  - Supervise individual student information in folders

Lesson 2 Type of activity: Research Projects/Inquiry/Reports (duration: 1 hour)

Students visit the library to continue the research process

Librarian:
- Prior to the lesson, select an animal for each student
- Show students a blank example of the finished animal research report
- Inform students of their animal to research
- Group students according to: mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds
- Provide and discuss sheets for animal research final project (habitat, appearance, predators, food)
- Provide students with print material (magazines and books) to read on animals
- Provide sample coversheet for each computer station
- Supervise the rotation of groups from table work to computer work, approximately 20 minutes at the computers

First Grade Teaching Assistant:
- Supervise and assist students working independently on animal info sheets
Students:
• Computer stations:
  o Groups work at computer stations, by animal group
  o Students locate their animal on the CD
  o Students print a picture of their animal
  o Students type and print a page for crediting the source of their picture
  o Students type and print a cover sheet for their research report
• Independent Work:
  o Students not using the computers work independently filling out the animal info sheet

Teachers:
• Follow-up
  o Allow class time for students to use computers (Animal CD and Appleworks) to continue research

Lesson 3 - Type of activity: Research Projects/Inquiry/Reports (duration: 45 minutes)

Students visit the library to continue the research process following the previous session’s lesson plans

Librarian: (see Lesson 2)

Teachers:
• Follow-up
  o Allow class time for students to use computers (Animal CD and Appleworks) to continue research
  o Bind finished research reports

Lesson 4 Type of activity: Reports (duration 45 minutes)

Students visit the library to present their research to all first graders

Librarian:
• Give teachers Teacher/Librarian rubric for each presenter in their group
• Divide students into four groups to present so that each group has at least one mammal, one amphibian, one reptile, and one bird
• Coordinate and observe presentations in four different locations in the library
• Give student rubrics to presenters after presentation and collect when completed.
• Collect final project from presenters.

Teachers:
• Observe and evaluate presentations
• Complete Teacher/Librarian Rubric for each student presenter observed

Students:
• Present final research to one group of first graders
• Complete student rubric

Librarian Follow-up:
• Complete Teacher/Librarian Rubric for each student
• Give completed rubrics to teachers
Assessment/Evaluation:

Formative assessment

- Librarian will observe, provide oral feedback and assist students as they use the CD and Appleworks software.
- Librarian will discuss research process individually with students as they perform their research and provide guidance toward higher level thinking skills through the use of verbal questioning.
  - Sample Questions:
    - Does your animal hibernate? Why? Why not?
    - Does your animal migrate? Why? Why not?
    - Where could you look to find more information?
    - What kinds of details would make your presentation more interesting?
    - Why does your animal live where it does?

Summative assessment

- Teacher rubric to be used by librarian and teachers to assess and evaluate research process and oral presentation.
- Student rubric to be used by students to assess and evaluate their own research process and oral presentation.
- Digital pictures of presenters to be taken by the librarian as students present orally and then given to students in print form with written feedback regarding their oral presentation.
- Student produced final written research paper.