

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Pet Talk

Lesson Plan for *Rabbits*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students understand the concept of animal communication.

Things Needed

- *Rabbits* book

Before the Activity

Read *Rabbits* out loud to students.

Activity

Introduce the idea of animal communication. Explain that communication is the act of giving or receiving information. Just as people communicate with one another, animals also communicate with one another. Pets can even communicate with their owners—not through speaking, but in other, nonverbal ways. For example, open to page 9 of *Rabbits*. Ask students the following questions:

- What does it mean if a pet rabbit starts thumping? (Answer: The pet rabbit feels unsafe or in danger.)
- What does it mean if a pet rabbit starts binkying? (Answer: The pet rabbit is happy.)

Explain to students that there are many other ways that pets can communicate besides thumping and binkying. Have students consider these other ways by asking the following questions:

- How might you know if you're holding a rabbit too tightly? (Possible Answers: The rabbit might start to squirm or kick its feet. It might try to escape, etc.)
- How might you know if a cat is hungry? (Possible Answers: The cat might meow, especially when you're in the kitchen. The cat might rub against your legs, etc.)



- How might you know if a dog wants attention? (Possible Answers: The dog might brush against you. The dog might bark, etc.)

Invite students to share other examples of pets communicating nonverbally with their owners.

Evaluation

Could students answer the questions about rabbit behavior? Could students answer the questions about nonverbal communication between pets and their owners?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard C, grades K–4, and the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.2), and speaking and listening standards, grade 1 (SL 1.1).

