

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL ANIMALS

## Lesson Plan

### Amazing Aardvarks

Lesson Plan for *Aardvarks*

Grade 3

#### Objective

To help students practice finding and comparing key details in print and online sources.

#### Things Needed

- *Aardvarks* book
- Access to the “Aardvark” web page on the National Geographic Kids website:  
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/aardvark/>
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

#### Before the Activity

Open the “Aardvark” web page in your internet browser. Write the following questions on whiteboard:

1. How long is an aardvark’s tongue?
2. How much does an aardvark weigh?
3. What other animals does an aardvark look like?
4. When is an aardvark most active?
5. Where do aardvarks live?
6. What words describe an aardvark’s tongue?
7. What senses does an aardvark rely on to learn about its surroundings?
8. What did you learn about aardvark babies?
9. Why is digging fast helpful for aardvarks?

#### Activity

Divide students into two groups. Instruct one group to answer the questions on the board by reading the “Aardvark” web page. Have the second group answer the questions by reading the *Aardvarks* book. Give students several minutes to write their group’s answers on a piece of paper.



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Then, come back together as a class to compare the groups' answers. Read each question and call on one student from each group to share the group's answer. Record both answers for each question on the whiteboard. Use the following list as a guide:

1. How long is an aardvark's tongue?
  - Website: up to 12 inches (30 cm) long
  - Book: can be more than 10 inches (25 cm) long
2. How much does an aardvark weigh?
  - Website and book: 110–180 pounds (50–82 kg)
3. What other animals does an aardvark look like?
  - Website: pig
  - Book: pig, rabbit, kangaroo
4. When is an aardvark most active?
  - Website and Book: at night
5. Where do aardvarks live?
  - Website: sub-Saharan Africa
  - Book: Africa, specifically places with soft soil such as woodlands, rain forests, and savannas
6. What words describe an aardvark's tongue?
  - Website and Book: long and sticky
7. What senses does an aardvark rely on to learn about its surroundings?
  - Website and Book: sound and smell
8. What did you learn about aardvark babies?
  - Website: One baby is usually born at a time. It stays in the burrow for 2 weeks. Then it starts going out to eat with its mother. The baby begins digging for its own meals at 6 months. It's full-grown in about 1 year.
  - Book: One baby, called a calf, is born at a time. It lives with its mother for about 6 months. Then it moves out and lives on its own.
9. Why is digging fast helpful for aardvarks?
  - Website: Aardvarks can quickly dig burrows to get away from predators.
  - Book: Aardvarks can easily move locations.

After both groups have answered all the questions, ask students to identify two facts that were the same in both sources and two facts that were different. Use the following sample answers as a guide:

Facts that were the **same** in both sources:

- how much an aardvark weighs
- when an aardvark is most active
- words describing an aardvark's tongue
- senses aardvarks rely on to learn about their surroundings



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Facts that were **different**:

- how long an aardvark's tongue is
- what other animals an aardvark looks like
- where aardvarks live
- information about aardvark babies
- why digging fast is helpful for aardvarks

### **Evaluation**

Could each group answer all nine questions? Did students share what they found in the group discussion? Could they identify similarities and differences between the two sources?

### **Standards**

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.2).



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