

OVERVIEW

This activity supports critical thinking and familiarizes students with wildlife in urban environments. Students will discuss what they see in various images, then create their own artwork to continue the story visually.

MATERIALS

- Dilemma image cards (pages 3 to 11)
- Art supplies (for indoor facilitation)
- Chalk and access to natural items like twigs, dry leaves, and pine cones (for outdoor facilitation)

Facilitators: Download and read through the *Wildlife Basic Information Packet* to be familiar with the urban wildlife introduced in this activity.

ACTIVITY

PART A:

Begin with students together as one group.

- Can students give examples of where they have seen animals, either in their neighborhood or near their school?
- Discuss similarities and differences among animal examples given.

Now observe one of the dilemma images provided on pages 3 to 11 together. Guide the students through the image.

- What do you see?
- What do you think is happening?
- What do you think will happen next?

Repeat with another dilemma image.

THEME

Raising awareness and relating to wildlife in an urban environment.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Explore what wildlife is and how to **coexist**, or live safely, with wildlife.
- Express thoughts and knowledge creatively through artwork.

SUBJECTS

Human impacts on living and non-living organisms, ecosystem relationships

SKILLS

Using evidence to support verbal and artistic communication, recognizing cause and effect patterns, developing solutions

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND MATERIALS

Suggested for facilitator

- Wildlife Basic Information Packet
- WildlifeNYC website nyc.gov/wildlife

PART B:

Use the rest of the dilemma image cards on pages 3 to 11. Students can work individually or as a group on one dilemma. Students should observe images and answer the same questions.

- What do you see?
- What do you think is happening?

Then have the students create artwork which reflects their answer to the final question:

- What do you think will happen next?

If leading the activity outside, groups can use sidewalk chalk and find natural items for temporary artwork.

After artwork is complete, have the students place the original image next to their artwork and have a gallery walk. As the group walks through the gallery of student work, have them observe images while considering the three original questions. Artists should share and describe their artwork.

PART C:

Collect the original dilemma image cards and gather students together as one group. Select two or three images to discuss together. Hold up each image and ask:

- How does this image make you feel?
- Do you think this could happen in your neighborhood? Why or why not.

Conclude with students journaling about their experiences. Students can write or draw their entries.

















