

Problem Based Learning

Unit Title: Animal Behavior Choreography

Grade Level: 9-12

Subject/Topic Area: Modern Dance

Designed By: Linda Gorman

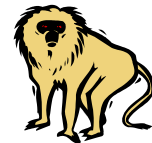
Time Frame: 1 – 2 weeks

This PBL is intended for Modern Dance classes. The students will first view a movie on animal behaviors. The movie describes how to do “Focal Animal Sampling”. I have chosen several groups of animals that they can observe at Brookfield Zoo. We will take a field trip to the Zoo. The students will be divided in groups of 4-6 and will get to choose a group of animals to study. Using a data sheet, the students will record the behaviors of their assigned animal(s). Back at school each group of students will collaborate and choreograph a dance incorporating the behaviors they observed into their dance. They will use the skills of sequencing, patterns, and inferences. Each group will present their choreography to the class.

After completing the activity the students will develop a better understanding of the animals and recognize how their behaviors are similar to humans. The students will use their newly acquired knowledge in a choreographed dance using animal behavior as their focus.

Essential Question:

What If You Were A ?????



Have you ever wondered what it would feel like? I have. Have you ever wondered what you would eat? I have. Have you ever wondered where you would sleep, whether you would be safe, or who you would “hang” with? I have, too!



I’m talking about our neighbors – the animals at Brookfield Zoo. You have visited them over the years, read about them and probably even written about them. Now it is your turn to be them...through the medium of dance. First, through your research, and then, through your direct observation while at Brookfield Zoo, you will determine what it would be like to be the animal of your choice. After your analysis and interpretation is complete, you will take the dance concepts and movements that you have learned in class and show us all what it is like to be one of our neighbors at Brookfield Zoo.

Plan:

1. View the video
2. Pick groups of 4-6
3. Select animal group
4. Use the Focal Animal Sampling data sheet to observe your animal
5. Enter the behavior onto the group chart
6. Using the observed behavior choreograph a dance 1½ minutes in length

Schedule:

- Day 1 – view the video/break out into groups
- Day 2 - research on line the animal
- Day 3 – Field trip to Brookfield Zoo/compile data
- Day 4 – begin choreography
- Day 5 – 30 seconds completed
- Day 6 – 1 minute completed
- Day 7 – 1 1/2 minutes completed
- Day 8 – Clean the dance
- Day 9 – Perform

Assessment:

See separate sheet.

Evaluation:

Discuss as a group what worked well.

How would you change the assignment?

What else could you have done to improve your dance?

What other project would you like to do?

Animal Sampling

LJG/04 Sample Criteria (Criteria below will depend on students' brainstorming what to look for.)

What social interactions do you see?	
What locomotor movements do they use to move around?	
What social interactions do you see?	
Group or individual interactions? Play?	
Habitat	
How do they feed?	
Grooming – How?	
Do they make noise ? What does it sound like?	
Do they fight ? What movements do they use?	

Group Animal Chart

LJG/04 Sample Criteria (Criteria below will depend on students' brainstorming what to look for.)

What social interactions do you see?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
What locomotor movements do they use to move around?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
What social interactions do you see?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
Group or individual interactions? Play?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
Habitat	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
How do they feed?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Grooming – How?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
Do they make noise ? What does it sound like?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
Do they fight ? What movements do they use?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CHOREOGRAPHY

Rubric

Names _____

Date: _____

Developed by Linda Gorman 2004

Criteria		4 Exceeds	3 Proficient	2 Average	1 Attempts
Time Element		More than 1 ½	1 ½ min	1 ¼ min.	Less than 1 min.
Technique		Clarity of movement, uses a wide range of movement elements	Accurately reproduces movement qualities.	Movements not crisp	Sloppy movements
Behavior Theme		Precise movements of the animal	Many animal movements	Some animal movements	Can't tell what animal
Performance Presence		Beg/ending pose Confident Focused Expressive Constant energy	Pose there - not exact Confident Focused Uses some expression Feel some energy	Pose unsure Hesitant Not well focused Looks down Watches others	Limp poses Projection weak Unfocused Lack of appropriate expression
Written Component (data sheet)		Observations exceeds requirements	Many observations and	Some observations evident	Little effort at observing
Total					