

Petland Lesson Plan: Reptile/Amphibian Pre K - Grade 2 class

Intention: To enhance student understandings about Leopard Geckos and Dinosaurs in a meaningful and engaging manner that uses inquiry based learning tasks.

Guiding question:

How are Leopard Geckos and Dinosaurs alike and how are they different?

1. Using large chart paper, a white board or a smart board, brainstorm with students a point form list of how Leopard Geckos and Dinosaurs are alike or similar.
2. Create a second list on the same chart of how Leopard Geckos are different to create a visual, verbal and written comparison of the two animals.

Consider ideas such as:

- They both lay eggs (are oviparous animals)
- They both have scales.
- They both breathe air.
- They both may eat other animals (are carnivores)
- Are they both cold blooded?
- Dinosaurs were mostly bigger than Leopard Geckos.
- Dinosaurs are extinct.
- Do they both have 4 legs?
- Leopard Geckos are from the dessert, and dinosaurs may have lived in a marsh or rainforest like environment.

3. Create a list or questions or wonderings from the brainstorming to guide your class's research.

Allow the brainstorming activity to guide student understandings about various topics such as cold-blooded animals, oviparous animals, carnivores, habitats, extinction and other scientific learning's. Also use the brainstorming to help develop other questions or wonderings that can guide your class's research.

Extensions:

- Students can draw and label a sketch of a Leopard Gecko and then create a second sketch of a dinosaur to enhance their comparisons. (Literacy)
- Students can create a 3 D cut out of a Leopard Gecko. Students will use their cutting skills and also represent their understanding of symmetry when decorating their Gecko with spots. (Math and Art)
- Students can select a specific dinosaur to research and gather information about their diet, habitat, and life cycle. Students can then write or draw a journal entry, create a power point presentation, make a poster, etc about their comparison of Leopard Geckos and a particular Dinosaur. (Literacy and Science)
- Let students suggest and design any next steps or activities to share their understandings and research. (Make a movie, scrapbook, puppet show, a board game, build a model of their habitat, a poem, a rap or dance)

Created by Mrs. Amber Pavey
Kindergarten teacher in Calgary, Alberta , Canada