



## Primary Communication STEM

Grade 1

Animal Unit: Lesson One

### *Lesson Plan: Observation of a Reptile*

**Teacher:** Mrs. Barrett

**Date:** 06/30/2016

## Overview & Purpose

First graders learn a lot about animals and their habitats. They explore various categories of animals by their physical and behavioral characteristics. In our classroom, students have the opportunity to study live reptiles, amphibians, mammals, fish, and insects. Families and community members are invited to bring in birds and larger animals to share with students. As students observe their animals, they learn how to care for them, how to use a scientific eye when drawing, label, take photos, listen carefully to non-fiction read-alouds, ask questions, plan and implement experiments, write many persuasive, procedural and informative pieces of work, participate in science meetings and use project based learning to solve complex problems. This first lesson in the animal unit will focus on using the hand lenses to look closely at the physical appearance of the gecko, use their scientific eyes to draw their gecko, use labels to identify what they are observing, and provide feedback to each other.

## Education Standards

**1LS1.A:** Structure and Function

**1LS1.2:** Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs

## Objectives

1. Students will observe the physical characteristics of a leopard gecko through hand lenses and use their notebooks to draw what they see
2. Students will use non-fiction text to identify the various parts of the gecko
3. Students will carefully label their gecko
4. Students will share their work with peers

## Materials Needed

1. Leopard gecko
2. Hand lenses
3. STEM notebooks
4. Pencils with erasers
5. Non-fiction books about reptiles and geckos

## Performance Task

*Steps to check for student understanding*

1. Students will scientifically draw the leopard gecko
2. Students will accurately label their drawing
3. Students will share their work with others
4. Students will make any necessary changes to their work

## Activity

1. *Students will each use a hand lense to look closely at a leopard gecko that is located in the classroom.*
2. *Each student will draw a detailed drawing of their geiko.*
3. *Students will work in groups, reading nonfiction text to find information that they can use to label their drawings accurately.*
4. *Once students are finished with their work, they will meet in a circle to share their work with peers.*
5. *With support from the teacher, they will give each other constructive feedback such as: discussing what they notice about each other's work, offering suggestions for improvement, and appreciating strengths.*
6. *Students will then work with partners to make any necessary changes to their work.*
7. *Students will hand in their notebooks.*