Lesson Plan: Physical Traits

- **Objective** - SWBAT observe specific traits of animals by looking at pictures and interacting with live guinea pigs
- **Focus Question:** What can we notice about animal bodies by looking closely? What are ways to gather and communicate information about observable and physical traits?
- **Vocabulary:** characteristic, observe, physical trait
- **Engage:** Teacher will show a picture of an elephant on the smart board. Teacher will ask students to draw a concept web on their desks using dry erase markers of the elephant describing its traits (teacher will explain to students that traits are body parts). The teacher will then make a class web by writing down what the students describe the elephant with.
- **Investigate:** (Centers) The teacher will then place different pictures of animals (snake, bird, black bear, centipede) and the two live guinea pigs at different stations around the room. With a partner and their science journal, students will walk around and make mini description webs of the animals rotating among the 5 centers with 3 minutes at each center.
- **Investigate:** Then at the carpet, the students will be asked to make a scientific drawing of the guinea pig of their choice. Referring to the puffin drawing we made previously, students will draw and label each trait of the animals.
- **Share:** Students who wish will then be invited to share the physical traits they saw on the different animals and what functions they think the traits may serve (students who wish to show their pictures may do so on the document camera).
- **Exit Slip:** As a mini observation, students will be asked to list 3 physical traits the guinea pigs had and what function they
thin they serve (students may draw pictures and use the word wall for help)