Pets S.T.E.A.M. into the Classroom

Essential Question

How can you care for your pet?

Objectives

- • Students will identify plants and animals that live in various ecosystems and select a South Florida animal that can be kept as a pet to identify how they respond to different seasons and how it affects their survival. (Science)
- • Students will research about the selected pet from the classroom on how they would take care of it to help it survive changing seasons in Florida. (Language Arts)
- • Students will Power Point presentation, or Board (Discovery Education Board Builder) to demonstrate their findings.
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- **Science Benchmarks Grade 3**

  SC.3.L.17.1 Describe how animals and plants respond to changing seasons. Plants and animals, including humans, interact with and depend upon each other and their environment to satisfy their basic needs.

  Both human activities and natural events can have major impacts on the environment.

Tell students:

Plants and animals respond to changes in the environment or seasonal change. They depend on physical features that help them keep safe, build homes, obtain food, and withstand weather. Animals migrate, some hibernate, and some grow or shed fur, hair, or feathers. Plants change in different seasons, some plants go dormant, or deep sleep, during winter, and some plants use sunlight, air, and water to make their own food. The plants' and animals' adaptation is a trait that helps them survive through changing seasons.

Plants, animals and humans interact every day. In order to survive they must respond to seasonal changes in their environment. When people, especially children, have pets, they must consider the different ways in which these animals respond, in order to take care of them successfully. Sometimes, certain pets are not suited for certain climates and seasonal changes.

Pre-Activities

- • Help students identify all four seasons in a Temperate Climate: Spring, Summer, Fall/Autumn and Winter.
- • Show or have students illustrate different nature scenes of the different seasons. Introduce students to plant and animal responses to seasons vocabulary in exhibit B (Frayer Model).
- • Show students illustrations or videos of how animals respond and/or behave in different seasons. (i.e. brown bear, turtles, etc.)

Have students research the number of pets in households across Florida.

They can compare that with the number of pets available in shelters for adoptions.

Research how many households have pets other than dogs or cats.

1. **Introducing the Concept of Animal Care**

   The following are tips on how to keep your pet safe and comfortable during different seasons:

   During the Winter Season, and anytime the weather is cold

   - o • Keep pets indoors and make sure they are safe and warm
   - o • Have plenty of food for your pet
   - o • Help neighborhood outdoor animals – contact local law enforcement agencies
   - o • Speak out if you see a pet left in the cold

     During the Spring Season, and anytime it is wet outside and the weather is rainy

   - o • Daily exercise
   - o • Give your pets plenty of food and water
   - o • Towel dry your pet as soon as they come back inside
   - o • Make sure your pet has a warm spot to sleep
   - o • Keep pets indoors in order to stay dry

     During the Summer Season, and anytime the weather is hot

   - o • Cool or shady place to stay to prevent heatstroke
   - o • Plenty of water to prevent dehydration
   - o • Limit exercise on hot days
   - o • Know your vets' emergency phone number

- • Select a pet to research and write a short paper describing appropriate care for it during the different seasons. (Identify basic needs of pets such as food, water, shelter, potty, grooming, health care, exercise, love, and affection)
- • Create a Power Point presentation, or Board (Discovery Education Board Builder) to present researched findings.
- • Discuss the need of animals during different seasons in order to take good care of them.
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To conclude this lesson, have students decide on which pet might be the best for them and their family.

Draw a picture of yourself with your pet on a poster paper and write the important facts to remember when caring for it.