

Gecko Lesson Plan

Grade/Class/Subject: Ms. Culmer's 6th/7th Grade / Special Education Day Class
ELA & Science

Common Core Standards:

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

- Organisms, and populations of organisms, are dependent on their environmental interactions both with other living things and with nonliving factors.
- In any ecosystem, organisms and populations with similar requirements for food, water, oxygen, or other resources may compete with each other for limited resources, access to which consequently constrains their growth and reproduction.
- Growth of organisms and population increases are limited by access to resources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.2

Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.

Content Objectives:

SWBAT: Research different types of geckos and different traits and characteristics unique to geckos.

SWBAT: Make observations of African fat-tailed gecko and habitat.

SWBAT: Plan and implement an environment for our classroom gecko.

Language Objectives:

SWBAT: Research the needs and environment for an African fat-tailed gecko.

SWBAT: Make observations, keep a daily journal, and record eating habits, digestive excrement, humidity levels, and daily temperatures of the environment.

SWBAT: Work collaboratively to plan a perfect habitat, draw the design, and pitch their ideas in front of the class.

SWBAT: Make a powerpoint to persuade the class to vote on their habitat.

Key Vocabulary:

Gecko, habitat, humidity, temperature, behavior, excrement, digestion, nutrition, observation, insectivorous diet, terrestrial, nocturnal, hygrometer

Materials:

Chrome books, composition books, drawing materials, chart paper, document camera and projector, materials for habitat

Essential Questions:

What is a gecko?

What would be the best temperatures and humidity for an African fat-tailed gecko?

What are the characteristics of the best habitat in captivity?

What is the gecko's natural habitat?

What is a good diet?

How can we set up an environment that provides great humidity?

How can we record the data collected?

Introduce the activity_ Lesson focus (Teacher Modeling):

Teacher will start the lesson by asking students about prior knowledge of geckos and record the information on a chart paper whole group.

Next, students will sit in their collaborative groups of three. Students will share personal experiences with pets, needs of their pets, and living arrangements for their pets. Next, the teacher will pass out photos of different types of geckos in their habitats. Students will record their observations of the photos on chart paper. Afterwards, the class will do a gallery walk by walking around to each group's charts and reviewing their observations. Students will then write down positive statements on post-its for each chart.

Guided Practice:

Teacher will give instructions about researching information online. Teacher will model appropriate websites to use for research about African fat-tailed geckos. Then, the teacher will show video about African fat-tailed geckos. <https://youtu.be/KJrdkL9UbEU>

Next, students will be given time to research habitats for African fat-tailed geckos. Teacher and aides will monitor each group and help support their research.

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Independent Practice: (over the next week or two)

- Students will plan a new habitat for our classroom pet, the African fat-tailed gecko.
- First, they will discuss and record their ideas.
- Next, start drafting a habitat and list materials.
- Students will observe the habits of our classroom pet. Where the gecko likes to sleep, excrement, drink, get heat. Students will record through models with labels and written statements.
- Collaborative groups will plan a powerpoint presentation to pitch their ideas for the ideal habitat environment.

Review / Assessment

When the unit is completed, students will present their powerpoint as collaborative groups. Each group will use persuasion techniques to explain why their habitat is the best. Classroom discussion about each presentation will use protocols for academic talk with "I agree" and "I disagree" statements. Teacher will provide sentence frames to facilitate academic talk. Students will record positives for each presentation in their journals. The class will vote on elements needed for each area of the habitat by using ideas from each group.

Lastly, classroom discussion will lead to a group consensus about the new environment for the gecko.

Extensions:

Students can design and make better housing, water areas, plants, or other elements of the habitat.

Students can write an expository essay detailing the needs of an African fat-tailed gecko.

Students can write a persuasive essay detailing why a gecko is a great pet.

Students can compare and contrast a leopard gecko with an African fat-tailed gecko.

Students can write a narrative book about the adventures of their gecko.