



Objective

Students will create an imaginary animal and describe how that animal lives.

Materials

- paper
- pencils
- markers (optional)
- watercolor or tempura paint (optional)

Action

1. Begin activity with a class discussion about animals that scare or frighten them . What makes these animals scary? Some possibilities might be appearance, sound, movement, hunting methods, and so on.
2. Distribute paper and drawing tools. Students can work individually or in cooperative learning groups. Remembering the conditions that make animals appear scary, have students create a new imaginary animal with scary characteristics. Students should be able to describe and explain these characteristics.
3. After students complete pictures, begin another class discussion about the real scary animals they talked about first. The "scary" things about these animals are adaptations they use to survive (roar of lion, teeth of shark, bite of spider.)
4. Ask who would like to describe their scary imaginary animal. What makes it scary to them? If this animal was real, how would this characteristic benefit them ? In other words, what would be the adaptive advantages of these dangerous features of the animals?

Deeper Depths

Watch videos of dangerous animals to observe how they use their adaptations.