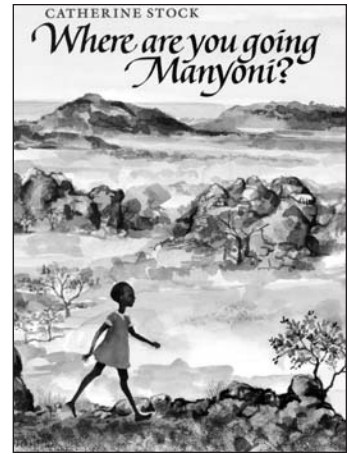


Sorting Animals

Children describe and sort pictures of animals by many different characteristics.



Preparation

What's Needed

Your copy of *Where are you going Manyoni?* and the Mother Goose Animal Cards.

Things to Consider

Review your notes about other sorting investigations you and the children have worked on.

Key Standards Children Practice



Problem Solving: using sorting as a way to organize animals

Reasoning and Proof: explaining why they sorted as they did

Making Connections: using sorting in everyday life, such as clean-up time



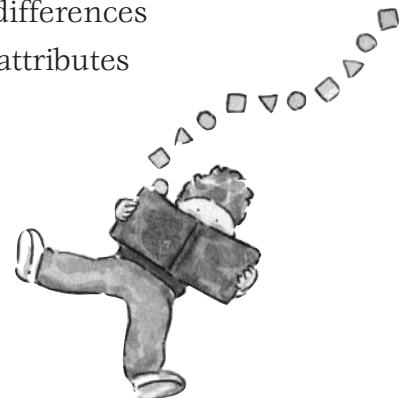
Science as Inquiry

Sorting and Classifying: noticing similarities and differences and putting animals into groups based on shared attributes

Recognizing Relationships: comparing animal characteristics

Life Science

Observing and talking about physical characteristics such as basic needs, habitats, ways of moving, appearances



The Investigation

Step by Step

1. Talk with children about the sorting investigations they did with *Hannah's Collections*. What do they remember about sorting? Help them remember the meaning of words like *characteristic* and *attribute*. Do they remember how to use the sorting loops? Can anyone make a sorting loop?

2. Allow plenty of time to look at and talk about the animal pictures. What do you notice about sizes? Colors? Numbers of legs? What else do you know about the various animals? What do they eat? How do they move? Where do they live?

Make a sign with words or drawings depicting the different attributes: ANIMALS WITH WINGS, ANIMALS ON THE FARM, ANIMALS WITH FOUR LEGS, ANIMALS IN THE WATER, etc. Encourage children to identify the names of these attributes. Remember: There is no right or wrong name for a group as long as all the children agree on the grouping attribute.

3. Ask children to begin sorting the collection. Let children take turns choosing an animal and explaining why that animal belongs to a specific group. As the children sort they may find attributes for which you have no group with a sign—make another attribute sign.

Talk With Children

Some children may have to count the number of legs before putting the animal into a group. Encourage this.

When a child puts an animal into the wrong attribute group ask other children to help find the right group by describing what the sorting attribute is.

Observe Children

Notice how the children decide which animal goes in what group. Do they just look at it and put it in the correct group? Do they study the animal carefully? Do they ask other children for help?

Listen for how the children describe the animals. Do they have a lot of information about different animals? Do they use descriptive words about how the animal looks or moves?

Extend Children's Learning

Go on a Find-the-Animals hunt. Make a collection of animal figures or stuffed animals, pictures of animals or books with animal characters. Sort these according to the groups you have created.

Connect With Families

Display *Where are you going Manyoni?* on or near your bulletin board with your Animal Cards and a list of the many ways you sorted the animals.

Post the following on your bulletin board:

Sorting Animals

We sorted pictures of animals many different ways. We learned that one animal can be in two different groups at the same time and we also learned about many physical characteristics of different animals.

By sorting a collection of animals, we practiced:

- comparing similarities and differences of different animals

