

Animal Inquiry Unit Plan

IMMERSE:

Whole Class Inquiry – Penguins. Students will learn how to research an animal by participating in a class inquiry about the same animal.

Day 1

Give students choices of animals for the joint research, vote and choose. Begin RAN chart for penguins. Construct “What We Think We Know” and “Wonderings” portion of chart.

Day 2

Continue RAN chart from above.

Day 3

Model Graffiti Board using nonfiction book about penguins. Discuss how we can find information from pictures and record information on Graffiti Board. At the conclusion, students will share their findings. We will adjust the RAN chart to reflect Confirmations, Misconceptions, and New Learning.

Day 4

Model Animal Observation using computers and iPads via San Diego Zoo’s observation site – students will record their on sticky notes.

Day 5

Model Sketch to Stretch with penguins. Students will explore nonfiction books about penguins to find information about what they look like, what they eat, where they live, and an interesting fact about them. Students will share their findings and we will adjust the RAN chart as needed.

Day 6

Model Fact Tree using a video about penguins. Together, we will watch the video once, then go back and stop at particular segments. Model noticing and recording facts on a sticky note, and adding the facts to the fact tree. Students will share their findings and we will adjust the RAN chart as needed.

Day 7

Model Fact Tree using nonfiction book about penguins. Together, we will explore nonfiction books about penguins. We will practice finding facts in the books, recording facts on a sticky note, and adding the fact to the fact tree. Students will share their findings and we will adjust the RAN chart as needed.

Day 8

Model Nonfiction Book Making using information learned about penguins. We will begin constructing nonfiction books about penguins. We will continue these books during Writing Workshop.

INVESTIGATE:**Individual Research on Animals Chosen by the Students****Days 9-12**

Students will select their own animals to research during stations. Students will visit one station per day and use this station to conduct research. Students will record their findings on sticky notes, graffiti boards, journals, etc.

COALESCE:

Day 13-16 Students will create nonfiction books using information learned about their animal. They will choose facts from their research to include in their books. We will continue creating these books during Writing Workshop.

GO PUBLIC:

Final Presentations: Students will share their books with guests and one another.